

YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S

# Illinois Country Living

JULY 2017 • ICL.COOP

## BAND OF BROTHERS

HELPFUL HANDS, GRATEFUL HEARTS



Association of Illinois  
Electric Cooperatives

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

[www.aiec.coop](http://www.aiec.coop)

**PLUS**

**Finest Cooking p. 16**

**State Fairs provide economic boost  
for local economy p. 22**

# ADVANCED HEARING AID TECHNOLOGY

## Costs 90% Less

*"I was amazed! Sounds I hadn't heard in years came back to me!"*

— Don W., Sherman, TX

**How can a hearing aid be every bit as good as one that sells for \$4,000 or more, yet costs 90% less?**

*The answer:*

Although tremendous strides have been made in Advanced Hearing Aid Technology, those cost reductions have not been passed on to you. Until now...

The **MDHearingAid AIR<sup>®</sup>** uses the same kind of Advanced Digital Hearing Aid Technology incorporated into hearing aids that cost thousands more at a small fraction of the price.

Over 250,000 satisfied customers agree: High quality FDA registered hearing aids don't have to cost a fortune.

The fact is, you don't need to spend thousands for a medical-grade digital hearing aid. **MDHearingAid AIR<sup>®</sup>** gives you a sophisticated high-performance hearing aid that works right out of the box with no time-consuming "adjustment" appointments. You can contact a hearing specialist conveniently online or by phone—even after sale at no cost. No other company provides such extensive support.

Now that you know... why pay more?

**MDHearingAid<sup>®</sup>** >>>

Use Code  
**DE53**

and get **FREE Batteries** for 1 Year  
**Plus FREE Shipping**

### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR 45-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!

Hearing is believing and we invite you to try this nearly invisible hearing aid with no annoying whistling or background noise for yourself. If you are not completely satisfied, simply return it within that time period for a **100% refund of your purchase price.**

For the Lowest Price Call

**800-489-3920**

**GetMDHearingAid.com**



Nearly Invisible

**BIG SOUND.  
TINY PRICE.**

**BATTERIES  
INCLUDED!**  
READY TO USE RIGHT  
OUT OF THE BOX!

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

www.icl.coop  
800-593-2432 • info@icl.coop  
For address changes contact your  
local electric co-op.

PRESIDENT/CEO  
Duane Noland

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
Dennis Fredrickson

EDITOR  
Valerie Cheatham

ASSISTANT EDITOR  
Colten Bradford

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
Nancy McDonald

MANAGER OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
AND GRAPHICS  
Brandy Riley

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT/GRAPHIC DESIGNER  
Sandy Wolske

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS  
Jennifer Danzinger, Kathy Feraris,  
Chris Reynolds

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 189,000, 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 \$2.88 plus postage per year for members of subscribing cooperatives and \$12 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:** 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.

 Touchstone Energy®  
www.touchstoneenergy.com

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and 25 Illinois electric cooperatives are members of Touchstone Energy, a national alliance of 750 electric cooperatives. Touchstone Energy cooperative employees adhere to four core values — integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.



# Illinois Country Living

July 2017 Volume 75, No. 3



## FEATURES

- 12 **Band of brothers**  
Helping hands, grateful hearts
- 22 **State fairs provide economic boost for local economy**
- 28 **The new living space**



Check out the NEW mobile-friendly  
Web site and digital edition

 When you see this symbol, it means there's more content online at [www.icl.coop](http://www.icl.coop)!

## DEPARTMENTS

- 4 **Commentary**
- 6 **Currents**
- 10 **Safety & Health**
- 16 **Finest Cooking**



- 18 **Energy Solutions**
- 20 **Yard & Garden**
- 26 **Powered Up**
- 31 **Marketplace**
- 34 **Datebook**

# Concluding thoughts as I ride off into the sunset

Do you remember the movie “Cool Hand Luke?” It’s that great Paul Newman prison movie with the famous line from Strother Martin, the prison warden, who says, “What we’ve got here is a failure to communicate.”

You could take just about any problem involving humans and stick that into the conversation somewhere. It is a statement outlining at least part of the problem and suggesting a solution all in one sentence.

You can also look to the successes and failures of electric cooperatives and find communication, or the lack of it at the root.

Over the past 38 years as a cooperative communicator, I’ve seen a sea of change in how cooperatives communicate with their members. The emphasis on member communication is also one of the reasons I believe cooperatives have been successful.

From the beginning, cooperative leaders recognized the importance of communicating with members. First of all, members own the co-op. They deserve to know what the threats and opportunities are that impact their cooperative. Secondly, in the beginning electricity was a new and powerful convenience and huge productivity tool for the farm and home. Teaching members how to take advantage of this new tool was important. Throughout their history, electric cooperatives have been in and out of political battles. Communication, such as this magazine, was all a part of what helped cooperatives survive and thrive.

Today, communication is just as important as it was nearly 80 years ago. The electric utility business, that old stuffy, boring, stable business, is going through an incredibly complicated evolution. Call it the smart grid and add in deregulation, restructuring, climate change and the new dimension of distributed, renewable energy generation — solar, wind, etc. It’s

getting complicated. It’s certainly not boring.

It used to be simple, well simpler. I remember at the first electric cooperative I worked for in Oklahoma, I was going through some old file cabinets and found a post card from a member. It simply said, when you get a chance can you come by my farm and fix the outage?

Now remember, the early days living on the farm meant you probably didn’t have a telephone. So sending a post card to report your outage at that time was not that unusual. Today, we panic if we misplace our smart phone. We text message each other and expect an instant reply. Or better yet, we expect our co-op with its fancy smart meters to already know we have an outage and have it posted to their outage map on the co-op’s website. Postcard? Isn’t that cute.

For a lot of communicators, the debate has been about paper or digital communications. I may be ready for retirement, and maybe I’m becoming that grumpy old man who doesn’t want to see things change, but I’m here to tell you paper still works. So does communicating face to face. At the same time, I want both paper and digital. I’m all for smart phones, social media and text communications. The more the better.

So bring on Twitter, even if our new president annoys me with his tweets. Bring on Facebook, and Pinterest and all the rest. Use all the new channels to communicate, but occasionally, put down the smart phone and just talk to each other face to face, especially us grumpy old men. We just need to vent, and yelling at the TV just isn’t that satisfying.

Your co-op and the staff of this magazine are taking on more and working to find ways to communicate with you in multiple ways. Illinois Country Living magazine is here to



stay. Paper still works and has staying power. It lasts and gets passed around. But, we are working to improve our online presence and value too.

I’m retiring now, but one of my last big projects has been to have our library of 75 years worth of magazines scanned and put into Acrobat PDF format. Think about being able to search 75 years of recipes! Seriously, we did this paper scan to digitally preserve the amazing history of Illinois’ electric cooperatives and be able to share that history with the world.

There is a reminder on my bulletin board with a refrain from a Chris Le Doux song called “The Ride.” It is advice from a crusty old cowboy to a young boy taking his first pony ride. The refrain (and life advice) is “Sit tall in the saddle. Hold your head up high. Keep your eyes fixed where the trail meets the sky. And live like you ain’t afraid to die. Don’t be scared. Just enjoy the ride.”

I’ve enjoyed my ride here with my co-op family. So, happy trails to you until we meet again. (Yes, that’s from Roy Rogers, and yes, I like cowboy songs.) ♡



**John Lowrey** retired as Editor of Illinois Country Living in June.



# Geothermal: Your Home Made Better

Is your current heating and cooling system letting you down? Upgrade to GeoComfort geothermal. Geothermal systems utilize the free energy stored in the earth, saving up to 70% on monthly energy costs all year long.



Lower operational costs, longer equipment life, and unmatched comfort – these are just some of the benefits of a highly efficient GeoComfort geothermal system.  
*Enjoy comfort and savings for home or farm.*

Contact your local GeoComfort geothermal expert today or visit [www.geocomfort.com](http://www.geocomfort.com)

**Atteberry & Marshall  
Heating & Cooling**  
Allenville  
217-752-6867

**Climate Company**  
Breese  
618-526-2135

**Jancke Heating & Air Conditioning**  
Waterloo  
618-939-8029

**R&H Plumbing & Heating Inc.**  
Altamont  
618-483-6159

**Bauer Comfort Center**  
Cissna Park  
800-457-2589

**Ernst Heating & Cooling**  
Hamel  
618-633-2244

**KCH Mechanical Inc.**  
Effingham  
217-347-5755

**South Side Hardware**  
Greenfield  
217-368-2705

**Bratcher Heating & Air  
Conditioning**  
Bloomington/Normal  
309-454-1611  
bratchercomfort.com

**Fowler Heating & Cooling**  
Marion  
618-997-5288

**LD Mechanical Contractors**  
Charleston  
217-345-9633

**Weeke Sales & Service**  
Okawville  
618-243-5333  
weekecustomcomfort.com

**Bratcher Heating & Air  
Conditioning**  
Champaign  
217-378-4328

**Heinold Heating**  
Eureka  
309-467-6112

**Neuhaus Heating & Cooling**  
Litchfield  
217-324-2818

**Weidner Refrigeration**  
Divernon  
217-628-3400

**Bratcher Heating & Air  
Conditioning**  
Paxton  
217-370-6305

**Holloway Heating & Air  
Conditioning**  
Mt. Vernon  
618-242-5481



### Refer a Friend

Earn money for you and money for them!  
Ask for details.

## Illinois Senate and House pass harvest transportation issues bill

Legislation recently passed by the Illinois Senate and House gives the governor the ability to increase gross vehicle weight limits during harvest emergencies. Senate Bill 1576 was sponsored by Sen. Neil Anderson, R-Moline and the House version HB 2580, sponsored by Rep. Brandon Phelps, D-Harrisburg, gives the governor the authority to increase the vehicle weight limits by 10 percent for divisible loads of agriculture commodities. Both Iowa and Indiana have similar provisions.

The action would occur during a declared harvest emergency when farmers are pressured to move harvested crops from the fields. ♡



## Protect yourself during mosquito season IDPH offers tips to guard against mosquito bites

During mosquito season, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is reminding Illinoisans of the best ways to avoid being bitten. Different types of mosquitoes can carry different types of diseases, like West Nile virus and Zika virus, but steps you can take to protect yourself from mosquito bites are essentially the same. Taking some simple precautions can help you avoid mosquito bites, regardless of the type of mosquito or the diseases they carry.

West Nile virus is transmitted through the bite of an infected “house” mosquito. Mild cases of West Nile virus infections may cause a slight fever or headache. More severe infections are marked by a rapid onset of a high fever with head and body aches, disorientation, tremors, convulsions and, in the most severe cases, paralysis or death. Zika virus is primarily transmitted through the bite of an *Aedes aegypti*

mosquito, that rarely has been found in Illinois. More information about the West Nile and Zika viruses can be found on the IDPH website at [www.dph.illinois.gov/](http://www.dph.illinois.gov/)

Here are some simple precautions you can take to reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and protect yourself from being bitten. Practice the three “R’s” – reduce, repel, and report.

- **REDUCE** - make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings.



Try to keep doors and windows shut. Eliminate, or refresh each week, all sources of standing water where mosquitoes can breed, including water in bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, wading pools, etc.

- **REPEL** - when outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR 3535, according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.
- **REPORT** – report locations where you see water sitting stagnant for more than a week such as roadside ditches or flooded yards. The local health department or city government may be able to add larvicide to the water, which will kill any mosquito eggs. ♡

## Dairyland Power Cooperative announces wind energy expansion

Dairyland Power Cooperative began purchasing 80 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy from the Barton Wind Farm (Kensett, Iowa), in February. The generation and transmission cooperative serves 24 member distribution cooperatives and 17 municipal utilities in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. The 80 MW is enough renewable energy to power more than 19,000 homes.

“Dairyland’s vision is to exceed expectations as a safe, sustainable, premier power cooperative,” said John Carr, Dairyland Vice President,

Strategic Planning. “Resource diversification is a key component of that commitment to our cooperative membership. Growth in wind and solar supports Dairyland’s strategic direction to diversify, and we are very pleased to expand our renewable energy portfolio with the Barton Wind Farm.”

This agreement is a result of Dairyland’s participation in National Renewable Cooperative Organization (NRCO). Dairyland is a founding member of NRCO, an organization of cooperatives seeking to promote

the development of renewable energy resources. “The strategic alliance with NRCO brings opportunities to all cooperative members through joint support of renewable energy projects,” said Carr.

This is Dairyland’s second major wind energy investment in recent months. In 2016, Dairyland announced a power purchase agreement for the 98 MW Quilt Block Wind Farm. Dairyland will purchase the entire output of the Quilt Block Wind Farm from EDP Renewables.

## Monarch issues raising concerns, but Illinois ag can act

According to the Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB), Illinois agriculture needs to act before Monarch butterflies join a national list of threatened and endangered species. The state is developing two strategies. The first would be part of a multistate flyway plan and submitted to U.S. Fish and Wildlife. The other Illinois plan is to guide conservation efforts and be in place if monarchs become a threatened or endangered species.

“We do have an opportunity in the writing of these two plans to convince Fish and Wildlife the listing is not necessary,” said Lyndsey Ramsey, IFB associate director of natural and environmental resources. “Monarchs need milkweeds and wildflowers.”

After being sued by environmentalists, Fish and Wildlife agreed to determine whether to list monarch butterflies as a threatened or endangered species by June 30, 2019. Before deciding, the federal agency will consider a regional flyway plan covering states throughout the Midwest and down to Texas, Ramsey explained.

“In five months, we (flyway states) need a draft plan,” she said, adding that draft will go through several revisions before a final plan is submitted next May to Fish and Wildlife.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is involved in the plans’ development, according to Ramsey.



As for the Illinois-only strategy, the University of Illinois–Chicago is coordinating efforts along with IDNR and Prairie Rivers Network. The effort is an offshoot of a September monarch summit that included different sectors, including agriculture. Ramsey and four Farm Bureau leaders represented agriculture.

Some groups want to start a conservation movement for monarchs, Ramsey advised.

“What I’ve heard from other groups, ‘If you (farmers) are confident you can control milkweeds in your fields, what’s the problem with letting them grow in ditches and fencerows?’” she warned.

For Illinois farmers, the fallout from the monarch becoming a threatened or endangered species could be substantial, according to Ramsey.

“It could impact farmers’ use of pesticides and mowing. You could be in trouble for incidental taking (killing) of butterflies,” she explained.

The geographic area impacted in Illinois could vary from areas where monarchs are found to anywhere considered critical for monarchs, Ramsey noted.

“Be aware (of the monarch effort),” Ramsey advised Farm Bureau members, “When there is opportunity to take action, we’ll let you know.”

Source: FarmWeek Now, Kay Shipman

## IDOA begins pilot program offering online license renewals

As a mostly regulatory state agency, the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) processes more than 70,000 licenses each year for farmers, producers, agribusinesses and various other organizations. Under an initiative launched by Governor Bruce Rauner, all state agencies are looking for ways to improve the way state government meets the needs of Illinois' taxpayers. With that in mind, state Ag Director Raymond Poe has directed all bureaus to develop a plan to offer online license renewals to streamline the way the Department conducts business with its constituents. The first bureau to undertake this pilot project will be



the Bureau of Animal Health & Welfare.

"Businesses these days are looking for ways to be more efficient and effective with their time and resources," said Poe. "Our goal should be to make doing business in the state of Illinois easier, not more difficult. Utilizing digital technology, we will be able to increase efficiencies for all parties, reduce costs and provide a positive experience for our customers."

Beginning in late May, the Bureau mailed out renewal notices to all current licensees in compliance with the Illinois Animal Welfare Act. Included in the letter were

instructions on how to renew a license online, as well as a sample to serve as a tutorial.

The Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare currently issues over 5,200 licenses each year in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act. The following licenses will be available for online renewal under this pilot program: Pet Shop Operator, Cattery Operator, Dog Dealer, Kennel Operator, Animal Control, Animal Shelter, Horse Rescue and Guard Dog Service.

Those wishing to renew their license may do so by visiting [www.agrlicensing.Illinois.gov](http://www.agrlicensing.Illinois.gov). A link to the site can also be found on the Department's homepage. 

## Clinton County Electric member named president of National Pork Producers Council

Ken Maschhoff, of Carlyle, was recently named president of the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC). A fifth-generation pork producer, he has also served on the Illinois Pork Producers Association Board of Directors.

Maschhoff is chairman of the Maschhoff Family Foods Board of Directors which is the parent company of Maschhoffs, LLC, which focuses on pork production. The company has grown under his direction to become the largest family-owned hog producer in North America, through a network of more than

500 independent production partners. It operates in nine states and produces enough pork to feed 16 million consumer households each year.

The National Pork Producers Council works to ensure that the U.S. pork industry remains a consistent and responsible supplier of high-quality pork to domestic and international markets. 

Source: Illinois Pork Producers Association



### CONNECT WITH US



**Illinois**  
Country **Living**

**FREE** WITH ANY PURCHASE  
**\$4.97** VALUE  
3-1/2" SUPER BRIGHT NINE LED ALUMINUM FLASHLIGHT  
ITEM 65020/69111  
63599/62522/62573  
63875/63884/63886  
63888/69052 shown



Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or prior purchase. Coupon good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Offer good while supplies last. Shipping & Handling charges may apply if not picked up in-store. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 11/1/17. Limit one FREE GIFT coupon per customer per day.

**20% OFF** ANY SINGLE ITEM

Limit 1 - Coupon per customer per day. Save 20% on any 1 item purchased. \*Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or any of the following items or brands: Inside Track Club membership, Extended Service Plan, gift card, open box item, 3 day Parking Lot Sale item, compressors, floor jacks, saw mills, storage cabinets, chests or carts, trailers, trenchers, welders, Admiral Bauer Cobra CoverPro, Daytona, Earthquake, Hercules, Jupiter, Lynox, Poulan, Predator, StormCat, Taligator, Viking, Vulcan, Zurich. Not valid on prior purchases. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 11/1/17.

**HaulMaster** SUPER COUPON  
72" x 80" MOVING BLANKET  
Customer Rating ★★★★★  
SAVE 66%  
**\$5.99** Compare \$17.97  
ITEM 69505/62418/66537 shown



LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 11/1/17\*

**PREDATOR** SUPER COUPON  
8750 PEAK/7000 RUNNING WATTS  
13 HP (420 CC) GAS GENERATOR  
• 76 dB Noise Level  
Customer Rating ★★★★★  
SAVE \$2170  
**\$529.99** Compare \$746.99  
Wheel kit and battery sold separately  
ITEM 68530/63086/69671/63085 shown  
ITEM 68525/63087/63088, CALIFORNIA ONLY



LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 11/1/17\*

**HARDY** SUPER COUPON  
MECHANIC'S GLOVES  
Customer Rating ★★★★★  
NEW  
SIZE ITEM  
MED 62434/62426  
LG 62433/62428  
X-LG 62432/62429



YOUR CHOICE  
**\$3.99** SAVE 60%  
Compare \$9.98  
Item 62429 shown

LIMIT 8 - Coupon valid through 11/1/17\*

**PITTSBURGH** AUTOMOTIVE SUPER COUPON  
#1 SELLING JACKS IN AMERICA  
Customer Rating ★★★★★  
RAPID PUMP® 2 TON LOW PROFILE LONG REACH HEAVY DUTY STEEL FLOOR JACK  
Weighs 99 lbs.  
SAVE \$130  
**\$119.99** Compare \$249.99  
ITEM 68050/62310/60678 shown



LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 11/1/17\*

**CENTRALPNEUMATIC** SUPER COUPON  
3 GALLON, 100 PSI OIL-FREE AIR COMPRESSORS  
• Air delivery:  
0.6 CFM @ 90 PSI, A. HOT DOG  
1 CFM @ 40 PSI, B. PANCAKE  
ITEM 69269/97080 shown  
ITEM 95275 shown 60637/61615



Customer Rating B  
YOUR CHOICE  
**\$399.99** Compare \$98.62  
SAVE 59%  
ITEM 69269/97080 shown

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 11/1/17\*

**SUPER COUPON**  
16" x 30" TWO SHELF STEEL SERVICE CART  
Customer Rating ★★★★★  
• 220 lb. capacity  
SAVE 50%  
**\$299.99** Compare \$599.99  
ITEM 60390/5107 shown



LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 11/1/17\*

**PITTSBURGH** AUTOMOTIVE SUPER COUPON  
2 TON FOLDABLE SHOP CRANE  
• Boom extends from 41" to 61-3/4"  
• Crane height adjusts from 73-5/8" to 89"  
Customer Rating ★★★★★  
SAVE \$120  
**\$229.99** Compare \$299.99  
ITEM 60388/69514 shown



LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 11/1/17\*

**PITTSBURGH** AUTOMOTIVE SUPER COUPON  
NEW  
LOW-PROFILE CREEPER  
Customer Rating ★★★★★  
• 300 lb. capacity  
SAVE 75%  
**\$199.99** Compare \$799.99  
ITEM 63424 69262/63372 shown



LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 11/1/17\*

**BADLAND** Battle Tested SUPER COUPON  
12,000 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH WITH REMOTE CONTROL AND AUTOMATIC BRAKE  
• Weighs 83.5 lbs.  
• 21-1/4" L x 10-1/8" H  
Voted Best Winches  
Customer Rating ★★★★★  
SAVE \$463  
**\$289.99** Compare \$752.99  
ITEM 61256/61889/60813 shown



LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 11/1/17\*

**CENTRALPNEUMATIC** SUPER COUPON  
3/8" x 50 FT. RETRACTABLE AIR HOSE REEL  
Customer Rating ★★★★★  
SAVE \$138  
**\$89.99** Compare \$198.45  
ITEM 69265/62344/93897 shown



LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 11/1/17\*

**drillmaster** SUPER COUPON  
4-1/2" ANGLE GRINDER  
Customer Rating ★★★★★  
SAVE 60%  
**\$99.99** Compare \$24.98  
ITEM 69645/60625 shown



LIMIT 8 - Coupon valid through 11/1/17\*

**PREDATOR** SUPER COUPON  
6.5 HP (212 CC) OHV HORIZONTAL SHAFT GAS ENGINE  
Customer Rating ★★★★★  
SAVE \$290  
**\$99.99** Compare \$389.99  
ITEM 60363/69730  
ITEM 68121/69727 shown  
CALIFORNIA ONLY



LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 11/1/17\*

**PITTSBURGH** AUTOMOTIVE SUPER COUPON  
VEHICLE POSITIONING WHEEL DOLLY  
Customer Rating ★★★★★  
• 1250 lb. capacity  
SAVE \$210  
**\$69.99** Compare \$279.99  
ITEM 62234/61917 shown



LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 11/1/17\*

**PITTSBURGH** SUPER COUPON  
32 PIECE SCREWDRIVER SET  
Customer Rating ★★★★★  
SAVE 56%  
**\$59.99** Compare \$136.77  
ITEM 61259/90764 shown



LIMIT 8 - Coupon valid through 11/1/17\*

**PITTSBURGH** MOTORCYCLE SUPER COUPON  
1000 LB. CAPACITY MOTORCYCLE LIFT  
• Diamond plate steel platform and ramp  
• Lift range: 7" - 29-1/2"  
Customer Rating ★★★★★  
SAVE \$750  
**\$299.99** Compare \$1049.99  
ITEM 69904/68892 shown



LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 11/1/17\*

**HaulMaster** SUPER COUPON  
• 1000 lb. capacity MOVER'S DOLLY  
Customer Rating ★★★★★  
SAVE 59%  
**\$79.99** Compare \$199.99  
ITEM 61899/62399  
Compare 63095/63096/63098  
63097/93886 shown



LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 11/1/17\*

**HaulMaster** SUPER COUPON  
4 PIECE, 1" x 15 FT. RATCHETING TIE DOWNS  
Customer Rating ★★★★★  
SAVE 80%  
**\$6.99** Compare \$34.95  
ITEM 63056/63057/63094  
63150/61524/62322/90984 shown



LIMIT 6 - Coupon valid through 11/1/17\*

**CENTRAL MACHINERY** SUPER COUPON  
20 TON SHOP PRESS  
• Pair of Arbor Plates Included  
Customer Rating ★★★★★  
SAVE \$220  
**\$174.99** Compare \$396.99  
ITEM 32879  
60603 shown



LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 11/1/17\*

\*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 11/1/17.

At Harbor Freight Tools, the "Compare" or "comp at" price means that the same item or a similar functioning item was advertised for sale at or above the "Compare" or "comp at" price by another retailer in the U.S. within the past 180 days. Prices advertised by others may vary by location. No other meaning of "Compare" or "comp at" should be implied. For more information, go to HarborFreight.com or see store associate.

# Beat the extreme heat during power outages

A summer storm can mean power outages during high temperatures, creating safety issues related to keeping cool. Take steps to be prepared for a prolonged outage during summer heat and know how to weather it safely. To get power restored as soon as possible, call your electric cooperative to report the outage.

"High winds and lightning that accompany severe storms can be the cause of many summer power outages," says Matt Eisenmenger, Safe Electricity advisory board member. "Tree limbs or debris may have downed a power line, and possibly hide electrical hazards due to storm damage. It's important to stay clear of downed power lines at all times, even when cleaning up after the storm."

In the immediate aftermath of a storm, assume that any dangling wires you encounter are electrical and treat all downed or hanging lines as if they are energized. If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or electric utility. Stop at all railroad crossings, and treat road intersections with non-functioning traffic signals as a four-way stop before proceeding with caution.

If power to your home is out for a prolonged period, know and understand important safety precautions and steps to cope with heat until power is restored:

- Dress in loose, light-weight clothing and stay on the coolest, lowest level of your home.
- Use natural ventilation to cool homes, and consider purchasing battery-powered fans.

- Drink plenty of water and avoid heavy meals, caffeinated and alcoholic drinks.
- Keep refrigerator or freezer doors closed. A freezer that is half full or full can keep foods frozen 24 to 48 hours. Foods should stay safe in an unopened refrigerator up to four hours. If an outage lasts longer than four hours, remove and pack meat, milk and other dairy products in a cooler with ice.
- Use safe alternative food preparation methods like a barbecue grill. But, a grill should never be used indoors. Always grill outside.

- Check on friends and relatives—especially children, seniors, and those with medical conditions or disabilities. These people may need to seek emergency cooling shelters.
- Make sure you know how to open your automatic garage door by hand.
- Close all drapes and blinds on the sunny side of your residence.
- Take your family and pets to a cool basement location if you have one. Also consider going to an air-conditioned public place during warmer daytime hours.

During an outage, Safe Electricity recommends turning off electrical appliances and unplugging major equipment, including air conditioning units, computers and televisions. This will help protect equipment that could be damaged by electrical surges and prevent circuit overloads when power is restored. Leave one light on to indicate that power has been restored. Wait a few minutes then turn on other appliances and equipment one at a time.

If you use a standby generator, make sure a transfer safety switch is used, or connect the appliance(s) directly to the generator output through an extension cord or isolated circuit before you operate it. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines, what's known as "back feed."

"Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power," says Eisenmenger.

For more tips on electrical safety, visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).

**Beat the Extreme Heat**

During periods of extreme heat, hot weather mixed with outdoor activities can lead to dangerous situations. According to the CDC, people can suffer heat-related illness when their bodies are unable to properly cool themselves. During extreme heat, follow these guidelines to protect yourself and your loved ones.

- Stay informed:** Check local news for extreme heat alerts.
- Stay cool:** If you do not have access to an air-conditioned space, visit a shopping mall or public library for a few hours. Call your local health department to locate heat-relief shelters in your area.
- Stay hydrated:** Drink (nonalcoholic) fluids regularly, regardless of your activity level. Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- Don't leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle**
- Do check on elderly friends and neighbors.**

**Heat Stress: Who's At Risk?**

Adults over the age of 65, children under the age of five, individuals with chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, and those without access to air conditioning.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



*“Oh, say does that star-spangled  
banner yet wave.  
O’er the land of the free  
and the home of the brave.”*

*Francis Scott Key*

More than 240 years ago, our country declared its independence. On July Fourth, proudly display the American flag, and pause to remember the sacrifices made through many wars so it can remain our symbol of freedom.

Your Touchstone Energy cooperative will be closed on Tuesday, July Fourth to enable our employees to celebrate the holiday with their families.



Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperatives

*The power of human connections®*



# BAND OF BROTHERS

## HELPFUL HANDS, GRATEFUL HEARTS

By Colten Bradford and Valerie Cheatham

**H**is hands were like leather, gnarled from years of hard labor, and he stooped as he walked. His clothes, which may have fit at one time, hung on his frame and gray hair poked out from under the dark, worn hat that shaded the bright light in his eyes. He moved briskly, for someone his age, as he waved a switch and steered the wandering cows away from the men.

“I’ve come because I’ve seen the



workers before when they were putting up the poles,” explained livestock farmer Señor Eugenio Yepes as he approached Kurt Krohmer, journeyman lineman for Jo-Carroll Energy. “I always come talk to them because I don’t want them to forget to put electricity for me too. I live down the hill. I’ve waited my entire life for electricity, and I’m 96 years old, almost 97. If I had electricity, well, I can buy a refrigerator to have

fresh meat and vegetables and fresh cold water to drink. I won’t have to dry the meat anymore.”

Twelve Illinois linemen, representing nine electric cooperatives, traveled to Bolivia for three weeks in March. It was the longest flight most of them had ever been on; they then boarded a bus in Santa Cruz for a three-hour bus ride to Samaipata, which was their home for the duration. They recalled the bus ride along winding roads that brought to mind being “on an old rough, dusty, country Illinois road, as the bus wound its way around mountains with no guardrails, and folks passing three-wide on curves.”

The twelve used their time and talents to electrify Señor’s village of Lajas, along with 60 homes, two schools and a facility for disabled individuals. Ryan Little, journeyman lineman at Illinois Electric Cooperative, painted a picture of the work. “It was six miles of line,

and if you look at it on a map it's very straight, but the roads that we had to navigate were windy. It was like a big snake going back and forth, crossing the line that we were building, and that six miles of line equated to about 10 miles of road we would have to travel."

The linemen knew Bolivia would be different terrain than Illinois, but little did they realize just how much. They were surprised by the rather primitive homes with dirt floors, no windows and only candles or lanterns to light the dark. "You don't fully grasp what it's like until you get there," said Little. "I gained a greater appreciation for just how good things are here in the United States."

Matt Eisenmenger, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives safety instructor and project manager recalled, "The terrain was like nothing I had ever seen before. I looked out and saw the poles and wondered, 'how in the world did they get that there?' I now know – with a lot of manual labor."

One of the biggest obstacles the linemen encountered was how difficult it was to maneuver in the mountainous terrain. It required dropping a rope off the edge of a mountain cliff and basically rappelling to the bottom to get to the poles, which had already been set. All equipment, including ladders, had to be taken with them, so they certainly didn't want to forget anything and have to trek back out to get it.

Terry Riggins, 54-year-old Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative serviceman, explained, "In one case, we had to work at the bottom of a ravine, and it took us three or four hours to get everything we needed down there. Instead of going out the way we came, we thought it would be easier to go out through a path they had cut. I had to climb hand-over-hand up this rope. I don't know how many times I had to stop to catch my breath. By the time I got to the top of the mountain, I literally collapsed in the back of the truck. I couldn't have gone another 100 feet, I was done."

The rights-of-way had already been cut, but that was another eye-

opening experience for them. "They don't have a lot of chainsaws down there, so everything is cleared by machetes," explained Bret Richards, Corn Belt Energy Corporation construction foreman. "Where they cut the brush, there were basically spears, 10 or 12 inches tall, poking out of the ground. When I started rappelling, I began noticing all these spears. If someone was to fall any

distance, they would probably be impaled."

After arriving at the bottom, the linemen encountered jungle-like conditions with plenty of insects, shrubbery and vines. "Back home, if you're going through rough terrain, we just have our hooks and small hand tools to carry. There, you had ladders you were carrying up and down mountains, into creek beds and



*Terry Riggins poses with children and their teacher at a school in La Negra. Riggins brought a case of protein bars to Bolivia for energy. He ended up eating two and gave the rest to the school children.*

up vertical cliffs, with vines tripping us up as we went,” said Joe Alexander, Illinois Electric journeyman lineman.

The linemen worked alongside 14 linemen from Cooperativa Rural de Electrificación Ltda. (CRE), the largest rural electric cooperative in the world. The CRE linemen barely spoke English, and there was only one interpreter, which made a tough communication barrier as they were divided into working groups. There was a lot of drawing in dirt, charades and hand signals, as each group learned a few words in each other’s language.

“I got introduced to this guy named Jordan,” said Krohmer. “The first thing he said to me was ‘my name is Jordan, like Michael Jordan.’ Right there I knew, yep, we were going to be buds!”

It took the CRE linemen a few days to get comfortable working with those from Illinois, but they formed bonds and learned from each other. The Bolivian linemen were used to doing their jobs with a limited amount of equipment, often using their own strength. Those from Illinois showed them ways to work smarter instead of harder, making the most of the equipment they had.

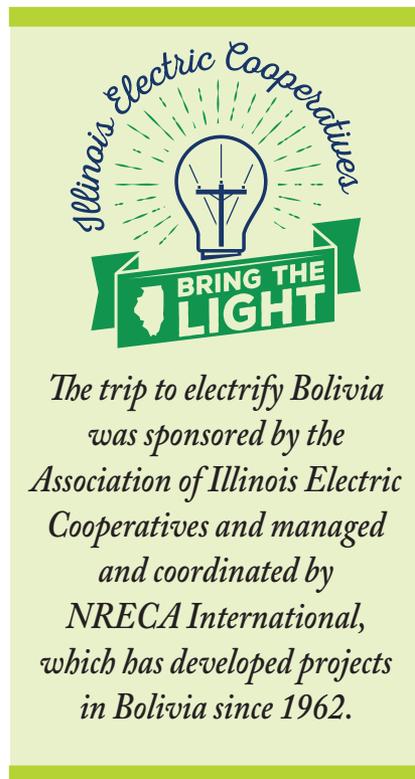
“We talk about linemen being a big brotherhood, and it’s amazing that I was able to experience that at its fullest,” said Richards. “A different country, a different culture, a different language; a brotherhood is true. At the end of our three weeks, we became very close with several of the linemen, especially the guys that we worked with. I will have fond memories of my brothers in South America and Bolivia.”

The first few days in Bolivia, the linemen worked in rural areas with their Bolivian brothers, scaling mountains and maneuvering around gorges. They didn’t interact with many locals until they got into the villages they were electrifying.

“Getting into the towns, you could just see the excitement of having something new, something that they’ve waited a long time for,” Alexander said. “Many of them

probably have never known what electricity could bring for them. I’m sure now they are figuring that out.”

Located in remote, isolated areas, these villages had remained in the dark because of limited resources and manpower. “It’s a beautiful country, with beautiful people, but they are poor and need our help something fierce,” noted Troy Shafer, Menard Electric area serviceman.



“Just to see how these people live, that was definitely a reality check on life.” Krohmer said. “It really makes you appreciate everything you have... These people work to keep alive.”

What seemed to impact the linemen most of all was the kindness toward them. “The villagers treated us so well,” commented Eric DeWitt, journeyman lineman from McDonough Power. “They didn’t have much, but they would give us whatever they had. If they had fresh fruit, they would offer it to us.”

“The people were always trying to give us something,” Shafer agreed. “I had one of the best tangerines I’d ever eaten. They weren’t orange like in the U.S., they were green like limes.”

To attest to their giving nature, one lineman described a hundred-acre orchard owned by a farmer who donates all his fruit to the local facility for disabled people. “He does all the work and gives it to someone else,” commented Bill Fields, Jr., journeyman lineman for Norris Electric.

Located in Lajas, the facility is home to both adults and children with disabilities. The volunteers who work at the facility spend their time attending to the residents, preparing meals and doing laundry with limited power and resources. Before the linemen came, it was equipped with a broken generator and an unreliable solar panel.

“It almost made the job that I was doing seem insignificant,” Little said. “These people are dedicating their lives to help these people out, whereas I’m down there for three weeks and then I get to go back to my modern conveniences.”

In addition to the facility, the linemen brightened the future for children in two schools. Eager to learn, play and always smiling, the handful of children at both schools ended up being a distraction for the linemen. “The kids all wanted us to play soccer with them,” said Brannon Dasch, Tri-County Electric foreman. “I could see my kids and all of the toys they have, and these kids just had a soccer ball and were happy.”

Several children wore the linemen’s hardhats and sunglasses, and some even got to go on bucket truck rides. One young man said he wanted to be a lineman when he grew up, and even helped bring electricity to his own village by helping Alexander drive in a ground rod at the base of a pole.

When it came time to turn the lights on, a celebration was held. TV news media showed up, children prepared songs and poetry, a big meal was served, and cold drinks were brought in with a refrigerator.

“The lighting ceremony was most memorable,” Dasch said. “The kids sang and you could tell it meant a lot for us to come down there and help. I really enjoyed it even though



*Illinois linemen Matt Eisenmenger, Terry Riggins, Shannon Davis and Eric DeWitt (L to R in green) pose with Señor Eugenio Yepes and Bolivian linemen Nelson Orquera (kneeling) and Carlos Giacomani (in blue).*

I couldn't understand, but I could tell they were passionate about it."

While some children sang, others read poems they wrote. These poems were interpreted to the linemen. Many wrote about how they could now do homework at night without wind blowing out their candle. A young boy wrote he will no longer be scared at night because he will have light.

"At that point, he reminded me of my own children and what it would be like if I was in their shoes and my children were scared at night," Little added. "The whole project to me was bittersweet. I'm glad we helped, but it's heartbreaking that people farther down the road still have children who are scared at night."

The ceremony was an emotional experience for the locals and linemen alike. Up until this point, the Illinois linemen had only restored power to people who have always had it. Many linemen had difficulty describing how it felt to give electricity to people for the first time.

"The day the lights came on, these little girls were singing back and forth to each other. It was indescribable. I just lost it and was crying," Fields said. "It's hard to explain how happy those kids were singing."

"Bringing electric to people that never had it before was an emotional feeling," Timothy Baker said, Corn Belt Energy area serviceman. "Having those people see the light turn on, hear the radio play or open that refrigerator to have cold sodas, it was amazing."

"We are so spoiled and lucky here in the U.S.," said Shannon Davis, Tri-County Electric serviceman. "With equipment and the common necessities that we think are necessities – fresh food, clean water; all which we take for granted. The trip made me feel very proud to be able to take part in this, and change people's lives forever. To be able to electrify the handicapped home, so they can keep medications cold, or a refrigerator to get a cold glass of milk, store meat, or keep food after its been cooked, gave me a very satisfied feeling

to know as a group we were able to help provide that to these people."

"I think the thing I am going to remember most about this trip are the faces of the people that have power now," said Little. "It is something that often we take for granted, but there was excitement in their eyes to be able to go into their house and turn on a light at night."

One of those faces that stood out to the linemen was that of Señor Yepes. "At 96 years old, you'd have experienced a lot in life," commented Alexander. "But being able to, at that age, experience something that has been around for most of his lifetime, and just now being able to benefit from it, that was pretty amazing."

After nearly a century, Yepes can now eat fresh meat instead of dried, and can keep vegetables longer without them spoiling. Because of these Illinois linemen, Yepes, and many other Bolivians, finally have light.

★  
**FINEST**

*Cooking*

◎ **ICE CREAM** ◎

I remember hot summer days, at family reunions and get-togethers, where the kids all took turns at the crank. That is, until we had to hand it over to someone with a lot more muscle to get in those last difficult cranks of the ice cream freezer. We all pitched in and could barely wait until we had our first bite!

Homemade ice cream is a favorite of young and old alike, and comes in as many flavors as your imagination will take you. There are now ice cream freezers that attach to your mixers, small ones you can put in your freezer, and electric versions of the old standard that are easier on the arm muscles.

Whether you are a purist and want to stick with your basic vanilla, or prefer something different, this month we share our favorite homemade ice cream recipes. So, it's time to dig out that old freezer, or grab a new one, and get to cranking!

### *Nutter Butter Ice Cream* ▼

4 pasteurized eggs	1/2 gallon milk
2-1/2 c. sugar	1 – 16 oz. pkg. Nutter Butter
2 c. heavy whipping cream	cookies, crushed
2 T. real vanilla	

Place cookies in Ziploc bag and put in the freezer for 30 minutes. Remove from freezer and crush into pieces. In a mixing bowl, beat eggs until foamy and mix in sugar. Add whipping cream and vanilla. Stir in cookie pieces and pour mixture into ice cream canister. Add milk to the fill line and churn. **Makes 1 gallon.**



### *Chocolate Ice Cream* ▲

4 pasteurized eggs	2 T. real vanilla
2-1/2 c. sugar	1/2 gallon chocolate milk
2 c. heavy whipping cream	

In a mixing bowl, beat eggs until foamy. Mix in sugar. Add whipping cream and vanilla. Pour mixture in to ice cream canister. Add chocolate milk to the fill line on canister. Process. **Makes 1 gallon.**





### Vanilla Ice Cream

- 4 pasteurized eggs
- 2-1/2 c. sugar
- 2 c. heavy whipping cream
- 2 T. real vanilla
- 1/2 gallon milk

In a mixing bowl, beat eggs until foamy. Mix in sugar. Add whipping cream and vanilla. Pour mixture into ice cream canister. Add milk to the fill line on the canister. Process according to machine directions. **Makes 1 gallon.** You can add fruit, crushed candy or your favorite cookies to this recipe. We added 1 quart of chopped strawberries.

### Mocha Ice Cream

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 2-3/4 c. sugar  | 1 T. instant coffee  |
| 4 eggs, beaten  | 1 c. chocolate chips |
| 2 T. flour      | 1 pt. whipping cream |
| 2 c. whole milk | 1 pt. half and half  |

Mix together sugar, beaten eggs, flour and milk. Cook until mixture coats spoon. Stir in instant coffee and chocolate chips and mix until they melt. Cool. Add whipping cream and half and half. Pour mixture into ice cream canister and add whole milk to the fill line. Process according to machine directions. **Makes 1 gallon.**

### Dairy-Free Vanilla Ice Cream

From MilkAllergyMom blog

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1 c. dairy-free canned coconut milk or plain dairy-free creamer | 1-1/2 t. vanilla extract |
| 1/2 c. dairy free milk  | 1/4 c. maple syrup       |
|   | Pinch of salt            |

Mix ingredients together and pour into ice cream maker. Churn according to machine directions. **Makes 1 pint.**



### Dairy-Free & Low-Sugar Mint Chocolate Chip Ice Cream

From MilkAllergyMom blog

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 c. plain Silk creamer | 1/2 t. peppermint extract  |
| 1/2 c. dairy-free milk  | Pinch of salt              |
| 1/2 t. vanilla extract  | Green food coloring        |
| 1/8 c. stevia           | Dairy-free chocolate chips |
| 1/8 c. sugar            |                            |

Mix ingredients, except chocolate chips, together and pour into your ice cream maker and process according to its directions. Add chocolate chips at the end. **Makes 1 pint.**



Recipes prepared, tasted and photographed by Valerie Cheatham. For more recipes and photos go to [www.icl.coop](http://www.icl.coop). Questions? Email [finestcooking@aiec.coop](mailto:finestcooking@aiec.coop).

 Visit [www.icl.coop](http://www.icl.coop) to see more Illinois Country Living recipes.

# Energy efficiency considerations for homebuyers

By Pat Keegan

**Dear Pat:** I recently became a real estate agent and several of my clients have been asking about the energy efficiency of the homes I show them. Do you have any suggestions about energy-related questions I should help my clients consider before they purchase a home? – Sharon

**Dear Sharon:** It's great to hear that you want to help inform your clients. Many homebuyers do not consider energy costs (such as electricity, gas and propane), which are significant expenses for any home. The average home costs approximately \$2,500 in energy expenses per year. Think about how much money that is over the life of the home!

Your clients' preferences for the kind of new home they want to buy can have a strong influence on energy performance. For example, the size of a home is one of the most important factors that will determine energy costs. As square footage increases, lighting requirements increase, and more importantly, the burden on heating and cooling equipment increases.

In general, newer homes have better energy performance due to advancements in building codes, but buying a new home does not guarantee efficiency. Building codes are not always enforced, and a minimum-code home is not nearly efficient as homes built to a higher standard. For example, if energy efficiency or green features are a high priority for your clients, look for homes that have ENERGY STAR, Built Green or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certifications.

Newer manufactured homes are typically much more efficient than older manufactured homes but do not have to meet the same energy code requirements of site-built homes.



*Newer homes generally are more efficient due to recent building codes that promote higher levels of energy performance.*

Residents of manufactured homes spend about 70 percent more on energy per square foot of living space as residents of site-built homes. If your clients are considering a manufactured home, those built after 1994 or that have an ENERGY STAR label have superior energy performance.

Once your clients are interested in a specific home, one of the first factors they should consider is how the energy performance of that home compares to similar homes. Although you may request electricity, natural gas or propane bills from the sellers so that your clients can estimate how much it will cost to heat and cool the home annually, this is not a precise measure of home energy performance. The Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index is like a "miles per gallon" rating for a home that allows consumers to comparison-shop based on energy performance, similar to the way they can comparison-shop for cars. A certified RESNET Home Energy Rater will need to inspect the home and develop a HERS rating. This rating can be done during the inspection process, or you may request a HERS rating from the seller.

Although many homebuyers focus on energy features that have the strongest impact on the aesthetics of the home, such as windows and lighting fixtures, it's the hidden systems like appliances that have the most impact

on energy performance. Heating and cooling systems consume about half of a home's energy use and are costly to replace. Here are a couple questions homebuyers should consider about heating and cooling:

■ **How old is the heating system?** If the home's heating system is more than 10 years old, it may be necessary to replace it in the near-term.

■ **What is the seasonal energy efficiency rating (SEER)?** Find out the SEER for the home's air conditioning system. If the air conditioner has a SEER of less than 8, you will likely want to replace it.

A home's building envelope insulates the home's interior from the outdoor environment and includes features like doors, walls and the roof. If the quality of the building envelope is compromised, it can contribute to higher heating and cooling costs. R-Value is the thermal resistance measurement used for insulation, indicating its resistance to heat flow. You may want to learn about the recommended R-value for homes in your region so you will have a general sense about the quality of a home's building envelope.

If your clients determine energy investments are necessary in a home they are considering, it can be helpful to call your local electric cooperative. Many electric co-ops can assist with energy audits and offer incentives for energy efficient heating and cooling equipment.

---

*This column was co-written by Pat Keegan of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on how to consider energy efficiency when purchasing a home, please visit: [www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips](http://www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips).*

---

# A TASTE *of* RURAL ILLINOIS:

Celebrating 75 Years of

# **FINEST**

# *Cooking*

Pre-order your *Finest Cooking Cookbook!*

**A TASTE *of*  
RURAL  
ILLINOIS:**

Celebrating 75 years of

**FINEST**

# *Cooking*

Mail order form and payment to.

**A Taste of Rural Illinois:**

**Celebrating 75 years of Finest Cooking**

P.O. Box 3787 • Springfield, IL 62708

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Check  Cash

Order online at [icl.coop](http://icl.coop)

Cookbooks will be shipped by Oct. 1, 2017.

Cookbooks @ \$16.95 each: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ *Shipping Included*

**\$16<sup>95</sup>**

**SHIPPING  
INCLUDED.**

Follow us for the latest news and how to buy your copy!



# Garden gone awry?

## How to control aggressive garden plants

Aggressive, invasive, and my personal favorite, a garden thug are all terms commonly used by gardeners to describe those garden perennials that tend to overtake their intended areas. It all starts with good intention. Usually it's a garden friend who wants to share a division of a plant they have an abundance of, or a gorgeous plant at the garden center whose label fails to note its aggressive growth habit.

The invasive nature of plants is relative though. For some, invasive refers to any plant that spreads. To others, it may be a plant that not only spreads, but also is quite vigorous and difficult to control. For some gardeners, space and time are ample and wandering perennials are of no concern, but for many like myself, there is not enough time or energy available to keep these perennials in check, and they may simply need to be avoided.

The reason these aggressive plants can be difficult to manage in a garden bed is because, in most cases, they are prolific reproducers. Whether that is by roots, seeds, rhizomes, stolons or some other reproductive structure, they have evolved to survive and spread by any means necessary. Underground reproductive systems like rhizomes can make removal especially difficult, as pieces of the rhizomes tend to remain behind, leaving a new clump of growth in its wake. Seeds are another story, with a single plant being able to produce hundreds of thousands of seeds in one season. Imagine trying to get that seed out of your seed bank.

Some examples include, Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*), a wonderfully beautiful and fragrant pollinator plant with roots that tend to wander. Lily of the valley (*Covallaria majalis*), a gorgeous spring flowering groundcover that can easily fill a landscape bed. Purple



loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), a lovely wildflower with the potential to colonize wet areas, eventually destroying them and the wetland wildlife habitats. While beautiful in most cases, their spread may not be worth their benefit.

There are some strategies to implement if you really want these plants to remain in your garden.

### Cultivate, dig and divide

One of the easiest ways to control aggressive perennials, that spread by roots or other underground systems, is to frequently divide it. In early spring, note the size of the planting and reduce it by at least one-third to one-half. For perennials spreading by seeds, frequent cultivation to eliminate the germinating seedlings is helpful. Consider as well, cutting the flower heads before seeds are allowed to mature later in the season.

### Bury the pot

Take a hint from a fellow herb gardener who grows aggressive herbs like mint. Remove the bottom or drill holes in the bottom of an inexpensive plastic pot and bury the pot with your invasive plant inside, sinking it so that the rim of the pot is level with the ground. The sides of the buried pot can slow down the spread of plants underground.



### Create a border

Some of the less aggressive rhizome producing plants, like hardy geraniums, could simply be slowed down by creating a border around the plant. Consider using inexpensive plastic landscape edging or something more decorative like brick.

### Spray the foliage

Herbicides may also be a tactic used to control these perennials, such as those that are systemic when sprayed on the plant, like glyphosate. Even these may need several applications to provide control. Consider painting the herbicide on the leaves when desired perennials surround the plant that you do not want to damage. Always follow the recommended rate and application method on the product label.



**Candice Hart** is a Horticulture Educator with University of Illinois Extension serving DeWitt, Macon and Piatt counties. She is also a Certified Floral Designer, Illinois Certified Professional Florist and is an award winning floral designer.

# Husqvarna®

## MOW - N - GO OFFER

**M-ZT52**  
**\$5,599**



*Oh Yeah! It's*  
**FREE**

**525BX BLOWER**



+

*Oh Yeah! It's*  
**FREE**

**322L TRIMMER**



+

*Oh Yeah! It's*  
**FREE**

**525P4S POLE SAW**



**0% Financing for 48 Months**  
on Approved Credit

**As low as \$120/month**  
(Sales tax not included)

**Over \$1000 of Husqvarna Equipment FREE!**

Many other packages available, for more information visit your local dealer or [husqvarna.com](http://husqvarna.com)

### Your Local Husqvarna dealer

- Albion** • 618/445-3502  
Gillard's Hardware Inc.  
335 Industrial Dr.
- Brookport** • 618/564-2080  
Hoyer Outdoor Equipment, Inc.  
7402 Unionville Road
- Bunker Hill** • 618/585-4844  
All Type Hydraulics-Corp.  
530 N. Washington St.
- Canton** • 309/357-5324  
Perkins Seed House  
525 E. Linn St.
- Carmi** • 618/382-2727  
Gillard's Hardware Inc.  
1678 Falcon Ave.
- Centralia** • 618/533-4497  
Ramsour Farm Supply  
25518 St. RT 161
- Decatur** • 217/875-6630  
Up-N-Runnin  
1920 E. Mound Rd.
- Eureka** • 309/467-4530  
Blunier Implement Company  
117 South
- Grayville** • 618/375-4804  
Gillard's Hardware Inc.  
112 E. North St.

- Havana** • 309/543-2037  
Perkins Seed House  
601 E. Windsor Ave.
- Herscher** • 815/426-2127  
Herscher Auto Parts  
230 S. Main St.
- Jacksonville** • 217/243-2443  
Perkins Seed House  
1040 East Morton
- Kankakee** • 815/939-2513  
All Power Equipment  
2019 W RT 17
- Marine** • 618/887-4302  
Marine Mower & Saw Inc.  
204 East Division
- Marshall** • 217/826-9070  
Riedle, Inc.  
17290 N. 1800th St.
- McLeansboro** 618/648-2227  
Wuebbels Repair, LLC  
505 West Market
- McNabb** • 815/882-2500  
Cole's Sales & Service  
211 S. Railroad
- Oblong** • 618/592-4732  
Sparks and Sons, Inc.  
5204 E. 1050th Ave.

- Olney** • 618/869-2263  
Stanley Mower Repair  
3593 N. Meridian Rd.
- Ruma** • 618/282-6889  
Ruma Small Engine  
36 St. Leos Rd.
- Shelbyville** • 217/774-2271  
Triple B's Home Center  
408 N. Cedar St.
- Silvis** • 309/751-4661  
Pillar Equipment, Inc.  
2001 5th Street Ste. 40
- Stewardson** • 217/682-3636  
Triple B's Home Center  
113 N. Pine St.
- Sullivan** • 217/728-2349  
Triple B's Home Center  
1315 S. Hamilton
- Teutopolis** 217/857-3717  
Performance Lawn & Power  
1311 W. Main





# STATE FAIRS

**provide economic boost for local economy**

*By Les O'Dell*

**L**ike many Illinoisans, Joshua Collins looks forward to the Illinois State Fair every year. So does Melanie Jacobs. Guy Alongi and Rex Duncan are eager for the start of Illinois' other state fair, the Du Quoin State Fair, late each summer. Vicki King is fond of both 11-day events.

It's not that Collins is an aficionado of corn dogs, and Jacobs isn't much into thrills on the midway. Alongi doesn't show cattle, you won't find Duncan in the racing pits at Du Quoin's Magic Mile, and King rarely buys a ticket for a grandstand performance. Yet, each of these individuals and countless others anticipate the fairs because of what Illinois state fairs do for the local and regional economies.

Simply put, the state fairs are big business – and they are good for business. For more than 150 years, the Illinois State Fair in Springfield and its state-run sister event in the southern Illinois community of Du Quoin, brings significant economic impact to their communities and regions.

“The economic impact these two events have on Springfield and Du Quoin, and surrounding communities, is immeasurable,” says State Fair Manager Kevin Gordon, who oversees both events. “They put people to work, they fill up our hotels, our restaurants, and they generate tax revenue.”

Together, the two late-summer events generate tourism, excitement, jobs and millions in economic impact not only for the two communities, but for their regions and the state as a whole.

 *Photo courtesy of Du Quoin Tourism*

## Springfield

The state's flagship fair, the Illinois State Fair (set for Aug. 10 through Aug. 20), has been a fixture, especially in the Illinois agricultural community, since 1853. Each year, more than 350,000 visitors enjoy displays, racing, competitions, carnival rides and games, "fair food," concerts and, of course, the famous butter cow. For many families, the fair is an annual tradition. Not only is the fair a fun event, Illinois Dept. of Agriculture officials say the Illinois State Fair – and its sister event in Du Quoin – serve an educational purpose.

"The fairs are important tools used by the department to educate the public about the importance of our state's No. 1 industry, agriculture," says Gordon. "Agriculture is a billion-dollar industry in the state of Illinois, so education and promotion of our industry is vital."

Both fairs also give fairgoers the opportunity to see entertainers and events they may not find anywhere else. In 2016, the Illinois State Fair featured the highest-grossing grandstand line-up in history, with ticket sales of \$2.08 million. Both fairs feature concerts and other performers as well as horse, motorcycle and automobile racing.

Not only is the fair educational and a source of cultural activities, it has a significant economic impact on Springfield, Sangamon County and the region. A recent study conducted by the Regional Economics Applications Laboratory at the University of Illinois reported \$86 million in business volume to the local economy by the Illinois State Fair. This includes \$35 million for wages and salaries as well as generating \$2.67 million in sales taxes.

"There are businesses around the fairgrounds that definitely see an increase in business," Joshua Collins, director of business and community development with the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, reports. "The aggregate is very good

because people come into town and spend money, plus there are the side businesses that are specifically related to the fair."

Many of those businesses are ones that cater to visitors, explains Gina Gemberling, executive director of the Springfield Convention and Tourism Bureau. "The visitor traveler visits restaurants, gas stations, hotels and retailers. It's a high occupancy time for us in our hotels and many people are doing more than the fair," she says, adding that many fairgoers also visit Lincoln sites and shop while they are in town.

"I've been attending the Illinois State Fair my entire life," Illinois Department of Agriculture Director Raymond Poe says. "I've seen firsthand the number of people the fair puts to work from inside the fairgrounds to outside the fairgrounds. Not only that, but the people who come to the fair patronize our local restaurants, hotels, gas stations and the Lincoln sites, which has a direct impact on our local economy."

One study a number of years ago reported that more than two-thirds of visitors to the Illinois State Fair were from outside of Sangamon County and specifically made the trip to Springfield for the fair.

The impact of the fair cannot be separated from the great impact of the Illinois State Fairgrounds. After all, the facility is used much more than just 11 days each year.

"The fairgrounds are important year-round because of all of the events that happen outside of the state fair," Gemberling explains. "They are significant economic drivers. There are often multiple events each and every weekend."



Events including motorcycle races, weddings, conventions, trade expos, livestock shows, medieval battle portrayals, and more all take place on the fairgrounds and inside the more than 150 buildings on the 360-acre grounds.

Often, area companies rely on the fairs, and other events on the grounds, for a significant part of their annual revenue. Many of these events, as well as the fair itself, utilize the services and products of outside companies.

"The fairgrounds in Springfield is a big part of our business. We're at the fairgrounds all of the time," says Melanie Jacobs, owner of Best Expo, a company that provides pipe and drape for trade show exhibit booths and rental equipment for weddings, meetings and special events. During the Illinois State Fair, Best Expo is responsible for all of the pipe and drape throughout the fairgrounds, including inside 20 different buildings and governmental tents. "Miles of stuff," Jacobs says.

"We probably keep a crew of at least 10 busy during the fair and the days leading up to the fair," she notes. "We start setting up in July with show rings and other locations. The state fair is a big part of our total business. It is really significant to us."



*Photo courtesy of the Southern Illinoisan*

## Du Quoin

Illinois is unique in that there are actually two state fairs. The Perry County community of Du Quoin has been home to one since local resident William R. Hayes first envisioned a state fair on 30 acres of reclaimed strip mine. In 1939, Hayes began calling the event a “state” fair because he wanted a prestigious, statewide event. The event and fairgrounds both grew over the years (the fairgrounds now encompasses 1,200 acres), and even though dubbed a “state fair” for the first 63 years of the annual event, there was no affiliation with the Illinois State Fair until the State of Illinois purchased the fair in 1986.

Former Du Quoin Mayor Rex Duncan understands the impact of the fair. He says it can be seen across the region, not just in the community of 5,900 residents.

“Du Quoin itself obviously sees a lot of traffic coming through with more activity in hotels, restaurants and gas stations,” he says. “We also see an increase in retail traffic because we have a lot of campers who start coming in early August for the fair. During that time, they are making Du Quoin their home so they are shopping here, eating here and being part of the community.”

He adds that when the actual fair rolls around (this year set for Aug. 25 through Sept. 4), there is sort of an

economic ripple effect throughout southern Illinois. “We don’t have the hotel capacity to accommodate everyone, so the fair also brings visitors to Pinckneyville, Benton, Mount Vernon and Carbondale, so there is a secondary impact there as well.

Philip “Mike” Beard, executive director of the Mount Vernon-based Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, says the Du Quoin State Fair has an impact on his community in terms of hotel stays, restaurant traffic and retail purchases.

A U of I study on the Du Quoin fair measured a \$6 million economic impact to the region from the fair alone. Current Du Quoin Mayor Guy Alongi says, as in Springfield, the true impact is much greater when you consider the fairgrounds all year long, not just in late summer.

“If you look at what the non-fair events generate, it could mean as much as the fair itself,” he says pointing to events such as the annual Street Machine Nationals hot rod car show, camping rallies and gatherings, rodeos and softball tournaments, as well as motorcycle and automobile races. In fact, the fairgrounds are home to one event or more for about 335 days each year.

“I look at the Du Quoin State Fairgrounds as a driving force for Du Quoin and an economic engine for all of southern Illinois,” he adds.

Plus, there is just a recognition factor for the community, which, without the fair, would not be as well known.

“Just the notoriety of having the fair here is so important,” Alongi says. “The Du Quoin State Fair track, for example, is known all around the country as one of the fastest dirt tracks in the nation, if not the world. To have the fair here is important to us and to the region. The fair is the centerpiece of Du Quoin and has helped this city for so many years.”

## Statewide Impact

The economic impact of the two state fairs is not limited to Springfield and Du Quoin or even the vicinity of the two fairgrounds. Businesses from throughout the state and nation benefit from the fairs, such as Herrin-based King Food Service which serves as concessionaires at both Springfield and Du Quoin. Vickie King, co-owner of the company, is behind the iconic taffy stands located throughout the fairgrounds, a Springfield tradition for nearly 90 years.

“We have four trailers in Springfield each year and at least that many in Du Quoin,” she says, adding that often the company’s presence at Du Quoin includes other food items in addition to the taffy, sometimes including as many as 22 concession trailers. “When vendors like us come into a community, it’s not just us that is making money, it’s everyone in town. When we come, we go shopping, we go to the grocery stores, restaurants, and gas stations. Plus, we’re all paying sales taxes and that rolls right back into the communities.”

King points out that employees are paid, too, spending their wages both in the fairs’ host cities as well as in their own hometowns. She adds that while her company participates in state fairs throughout the Midwest, the Springfield and Du Quoin events are a priority for her and her company.

“These fairs are important from a community standpoint for us,” she explains. “These are our home fairs.”



◀ Photo courtesy of the Southern Illinoian

If we weren't there, there would be a void. I love the Illinois State Fair and Du Quoin State Fair because they are home."

Jacobs' company also is part of activities in Du Quoin as well, providing services for events such as the Illinois Product Expo.

King says when one considers all of the people who come to the fairs to work, there are significant dollars generated – and spent.

"Look at how many trucks the midway companies have. They have to fuel those trucks," she says. "They are taking money and spending it in the community. I mean, we all need to restock our campers and our concession trailers." She adds that many vendors also provide temporary jobs during the fairs.

"There may be as many as 30 people we hire locally. We spend a lot of

money when we roll into a community; money that stays in the community. The fairs have a big impact on all of us."

The two state fairs are just part of a bigger picture showing the benefits of fairs throughout the state. A separate University of Illinois study showed that at county fairs \$170 million was spent in 2014, with more than half of expenditures happening directly in the Illinois economy. The report also indicated that fairs continue local traditions and build unity among Illinois communities and families.

If you're planning to attend one or both state fairs, just know that whatever the reason to attend either late-summer event, the local and state economy get a boost with every corn



dog eaten, every show ticket purchased and every carnival ride ridden. For more information, visit [Illinois.gov/StateFair](http://Illinois.gov/StateFair) for the Illinois State Fair and [Illinois.gov/sites/dsf](http://Illinois.gov/sites/dsf) for the Du Quoin State Fair.

# The great file migration

There are many things to consider when purchasing a new computer, but migrating your data from your old computer to your new one is likely one of the most challenging. There are many different methods to accomplish this, and I want to share what I believe to be the simplest approach.



Most people want to get their new computer up and running as fast as possible. If you're running a backup solution, your first instinct is to restore from a previous backup; however, this can be problematic. There are only a few things you need to look at when transferring data from an old computer to a new one. Many times, when restoring from backup, it brings with it a lot of the old configuration problems associated with the old computer. Instead, I want you to consider manually copying only the files that you really need to your new computer. This prevents problems associated with misconfiguration or setting changes from your old one.

By following these simple steps, you can have a pleasant new computer experience and peace of mind knowing you have a backup of your data. The first thing is identify where your data is located. If you're a typical user, it is more than likely in the default location. In other words, Windows automatically saves your documents to the documents folder, pictures to the pictures folder, etc. Another common place we like to save our files is on the desktop, so make sure to get those files backed up as well. You may also want to save the favorites set up in your Internet browser. Let's take a moment and walk-through how to backup all locations at once.

The first thing I would recommend is to purchase a relatively inexpensive one terabyte external hard drive. That should be sufficient space for most users and allow for some additional head room. Once you finish copying your personal data to the external hard drive, you can safely store it away for safekeeping knowing that you have a spare copy of all your personal data from the last time you replaced your computer.

The typical location that contains all your data is called your profile and is located in different places, depending on what operating system you are running. On a Windows 10, 8, 7 or Vista computer, the location will be C:\users\“your login ID.” “Your login ID” will be what is displayed at the login screen when you first boot up your computer. For instance, my profile is located in C:\users\dgerard. For Windows XP, it will be C:\documents and settings\“your login ID.”

Now that you have located your user profile directory, which contains all the files associated with your login, you can begin to copy the files to your external hard drive. You can be as selective as you want, but be sure you have all the files that are important to you. It is even possible to copy the entire contents of the profile directory and move it all to your new computer. Once you have all your files on your external hard drive, it is now time to

plug it in and begin transferring the files to the profile directory on your new computer. You will notice that the profile directory structure on the new computer looks the same, or very similar to, your old computer. If you select all the files on your external hard drive and copy them to your profile directory on the new computer (C:\users\“your login ID”), it will most likely give you the message that a folder or file with the same name already exists and will prompt you to overwrite the file or folder. This is perfectly normal, and when you click yes to overwrite, it will replace the files with the files from your old computer.

It's that simple! Don't forget to store that external hard drive in a safe place, because you now have a point-in-time backup of all your data. Hopefully, the next time you buy a new computer, you won't be stressed out about getting your files moved and can start enjoying your new purchase right away.

 **Comment on this column**

Visit [icl.coop](http://icl.coop) and click on Powered Up to respond. Your response might even be included in a future column.



**Dan Gerard, CISSP**, is the Chief Technology Officer for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield.

# Eye Doctor Helps Illinois Legally Blind To See

*High Technology For Low Vision Patients Allows Many To Drive Again*



**F**or many patients with macular degeneration and other vision-related conditions, the loss of central visual detail also signals the end to one of the last bastions of independence: driving. A Mascoutah optometrist, Dr. Marianne McDaniel, is using miniaturized telescopes that are mounted in glasses to help people who have lost vision from macular degeneration and other eye conditions.

"Some of my patients consider me the last stop for people who have vision loss," said Dr. Weingart, one of only a few doctors in the world who specialize in fitting bioptic telescopes to help those who have lost vision due to macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and other debilitating eye diseases.

Imagine a pair of glasses that can improve your vision enough to change your life. If you're a low vision patient, you've probably not only imagined them, but have been searching for them. Bioptic telescopes may be the

breakthrough in optical technology that will give you the independence you've been looking for. Patients with vision in the 20/200 range can many times be improved to 20/50 or better.

Macular degeneration is the leading cause of blindness and vision loss in people over 50. Despite this, most adults are not familiar with the condition. As many as 25% of those over the age of 50 have some degree



*A scene as it might be viewed by a person with age-related macular degeneration.*

of macular degeneration. The macula is only one small part of the retina; however, it is the most sensitive and gives us sharp central vision. When it degenerates, macular degeneration leaves a blind spot right in the center of vision, making it difficult or impossible to recognize faces, read a book, or pass the driver's vision test.

Nine out of 10 people who have macular degeneration have the dry form. New research suggests vitamins can help. The British medical journal

BMC Ophthalmology recently reported that 56% of patients treated with a high-dose combination of vitamins experienced improved vision after six months.

While age is the most significant risk factor for developing the disease, heredity, smoking, cardiovascular disease, and high blood pressure have also been identified as risk factors.

Macular degeneration accounts for 90% of new legal blindness in the U.S. While there is currently no cure, promising research is being done on many fronts. "My job is to figure out everything and anything possible to keep a person functioning, especially driving," says Dr. McDaniel.

"Bioptic telescopes can cost over \$2,000," said Dr. McDaniel, "especially if we build them with an automatic sunglass."

"The major benefit of the bioptic telescope is that the lens automatically focuses on whatever you're looking at," said Dr. Weingart. "It's like a self-focusing camera, but much more precise."

To learn more about bioptic telescopes or to schedule a consultation, give Dr. McDaniel or Dr. Weingart a call. You can also visit our websites.

[www.lowvisionofsouthil.com](http://www.lowvisionofsouthil.com)

**1-802-350-6599**

Office located in Mascoutah, Illinois  
**Marianne McDaniel, O.D.**

[www.FoxValleyLowVision.com](http://www.FoxValleyLowVision.com)

**1-800-341-8498**

Located in Oswego, IL  
**Ronald Weingart, O.D.**

# The new living space

## Reimagining the American Dream

By Justin LaBerge

A house, two kids, a manicured lawn and a well-maintained fence to keep it all safe. For years, that's the dream to which many Americans aspired.

But if you've scrolled through your social media feed lately or watched one of the countless reality shows about real estate and housing, you might've noticed that many folks are eschewing that traditional American home in favor of alternative accommodations.

The reasons people prefer these non-traditional structures are as diverse as the buildings themselves. Some want to simplify and declutter their lives, some hope to save money or reduce energy use, and some just want to try something different.

Here's a look at a few of the more popular non-traditional home designs that might be coming to a neighborhood near you.

### Tiny houses

The tiny house trend got its start with a man named Jay Shafer who built his first miniature house on wheels in Iowa in 1999. Shafer is a person who likes to challenge the status quo, and after living in a variety of non-traditional spaces over the years, he started drawing plans for imaginary houses.

Over time, the designs got simpler and smaller, and he was inspired to build one for real when he learned they didn't meet building codes. He took that as a challenge, and realized that if he built the house on a prefabricated, street legal trailer, it would be considered a trailer load and not a house, and thus, not subject to building codes.

This non-conformity has made tiny houses a controversial issue in many communities, and local governments have struggled to balance individual rights, local codes and public safety. Their non-traditional design has also made tiny houses more difficult to finance and insure, although options for both are available.

Despite these challenges, thousands of people have purchased do-it-yourself plans and pre-built tiny houses from Shafer and other designers.

Unlike mobile homes or camping trailers, tiny houses



*Tiny houses look like real houses, with square corners, traditional siding materials and pitched roofs. They typically offer 100 to 130 square feet of living space, and must be less than 8 feet 6 inches wide and 13 feet 6 inches tall to legally drive on the road without a special permit.*

look like real houses, with square corners, traditional siding materials and pitched roofs. They typically offer 100 to 130 square feet of living space, and must be less than 8 feet 6 inches wide and 13 feet 6 inches tall to legally drive on the road without a special permit. The weight varies based on the length and rating of the trailer, but tiny houses are typically much heavier than camping trailers because they are made from traditional building materials.

In March 2017, the city of Portland, Ore., launched a pilot program that uses tiny modular units to help address the community's severe homelessness problem. Homeowners who volunteer to participate in the program will have one of these government-built tiny houses placed in their backyard. Homeless families who qualify for the pilot program will occupy the units.

After five years, the homeowners can take over the spaces and use them for rental income, creating what city officials hope is a win-win for property owners and individuals experiencing homelessness.

### Monolithic domes

As the name suggests, monolithic domes are built as a single, cast-in-place structure of concrete and reinforcing steel.

Though domes have been built for thousands of years, the first modern monolithic dome was built by three brothers

in 1975 to store potatoes in Idaho. The large open space and lack of support columns makes monolithic domes ideal structures for storing agricultural products and other bulk materials such as rock salt and portland cement.

The geometry of domes makes them incredibly strong structures, and their smooth, round shape is also aerodynamic. Those two factors make monolithic domes excellent shelters during tornados and other natural disasters.

In Oklahoma, monolithic domes have become a popular choice for local governments constructing large gathering spaces that can pull double duty as a school gym, auditorium or cafeteria under normal conditions, and an emergency shelter during severe weather. Since they are made out of concrete, they are also resistant to fire.

In addition to these safety benefits, domes offer homeowners the high ceilings and large open floor plans that are so popular today. They are also highly efficient, requiring about a quarter of the energy required to heat and cool a similarly sized traditional structure, according to the Monolithic Dome Institute.

The domes are so well sealed that most require a ventilation system to bring in fresh air from the outside, and the Monolithic Dome Institute recommends all-electric mechanical systems in domes to reduce the risks associated with combustion of natural gas and propane.

### Container homes

In recent years, the shipping container has become a political symbol for many people.

To some, they are a symbol of the decline of American manufacturing and the loss of well-paying jobs to countries with lower labor costs. To others, the containers are tools that connect us to a globalized economy and lower the cost of many consumer goods we purchase every day.

But to another group of architecture enthusiasts, the shipping containers we see every day stacked on cargo boats, carried by freight trains and pulled by semi-trucks are grown-up sized Lego blocks waiting to be turned into a home.

The first container buildings were built by people and organizations looking for a fast, simple and low-cost way to provide shelter. Containers are strong, easy to



Photo credit: Kevin McGuckin

*Monolithic domes offer homeowners the high ceilings and large open floor plans that are so popular today. They are also highly efficient, requiring about a quarter of the energy required to heat and cool a similarly sized traditional structure.*

transport and, thanks to global trade, abundant.

Over time, what started as a clever way to recycle old containers and quickly build inexpensive structures has morphed into an architectural trend.

The modular, boxy aesthetic of shipping containers gives container homes a modern look that many find appealing.

Today, container homes range in size and complexity from modest, inexpensive, utilitarian dwellings to large, highly-customized, luxury homes.

Container home enthusiasts say the three keys to a successful project are understanding all local building codes and safety regulations before starting the project, hiring a contractor that has previous experience with this unique form of construction and purchasing the correct type of container.

### Old house, new tricks

Even traditional houses aren't immune to the trend of alternative construction techniques. Advances in technology have transformed the manufactured housing business as well. In addition to the classic mobile home and newer modular home designs, homeowners can now purchase high-end custom homes created from pre-fabricated panels that are built in a climate-controlled factory and assembled onsite.

In 2016, the popular public television show *This Old House* featured one of these modern luxury catalogue homes as one of its two projects for the season. The homeowners estimated they saved approximately 15 percent over the cost of a traditional stick-built house, which they used to invest in nicer finishes and details than they would have otherwise been able to afford.

---

*Justin LaBerge 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.*



**I RECYCLED MY OLD FRIDGE AND FOUND LEFTOVERS IN MY WALLET.**

I'm saving \$146 a year now that I've recycled my old fridge. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).

[TOGETHERWESAVE.COM](http://TOGETHERWESAVE.COM)

**BUILT LIKE THE PEOPLE WHO USE IT**



**STRONG & DEPENDABLE**

(217) 864-5835

MT. ZION, IL

[MWBllinois.com](http://MWBllinois.com)



FACTORY DIRECT

**POLE BARN PACKAGES**

# Enjoy Yorkville.

Visit Yorkville for fun festivals, outdoor adventure, vibrant nightlife, and where you can beat the heat at the state's largest waterpark.

Make it a Getaway! Visit [GoYorkville.com](http://GoYorkville.com) to get more info on events, attractions, and family fun in beautiful Yorkville, Illinois as well as hotel deals and packages to make it a great stay.





**SUMMER FESTIVALS**

**RAGING WAVES WATERPARK**

**OUTDOOR ADVENTURE**

**DOWNTOWN YORKVILLE**



# Get the Muck OUT!

**Marble size AquaClear™ Pellets clear your lake or pond bottom.**

Beneficial microorganisms. Restore balance in natural and man made surface waters. Increase water clarity. Improve water quality. Eliminate black organic muck.

**New Reduced Prices!**

A **10 lb. bag** treats 0.5 to 1.0 acres **\$89.00**  
 A **50 lb. bag** treats 2.5 to 5.0 acres **\$319.00**

Apply weekly for 4 weeks, then monthly to maintain. No water use restrictions!  
**FREE SHIPPING!**  
**800-328-9350**

## KillLakeWeeds.com

Order online today, or request free information.

Our 62<sup>nd</sup> year

**AQUACIDE CO.**  
 PO Box 10748, DEPT. 737X,  
 White Bear Lake, MN 55110-0748




protect what matters

looks like **mother nature** finally met her match.

35x50 starting at \$7,914



Check out our new 3D designer on our website!

**50 YEAR** CREATING TRUST

CALL NOW FOR CURRENT SPECIALS 800-825-8316

Visit our website at [WorldwideSteelBuildings.com](http://WorldwideSteelBuildings.com) for more information.

# Illinois Country Living

Go to our website for past issues of Illinois Country Living  
[www.icl.coop](http://www.icl.coop)

Call Toll Free **MAPBC** Other Sizes Available

## MID-AMERICA Pole Barn Co.

**30 x 50 x 10 Galvalume SPECIAL!**

Price includes material, delivery, construction, factory trusses, screws.

Open Monday - Friday  
 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**866.456.0959**

## Never Lose Electricity Again!



**Own the #1 Brand in Home Standby Power.**

7 out of 10 buyers choose Generac Home Standby Generators to automatically provide electricity to their homes during power outages. GENERAC Home Standby Generators start at just \$1,949.\*

**CALL for FREE Generator Guide, DVD, and Limited Time Offer.**

**\$695 BONUS OFFER!**

**GENERAC** 

\*Price does not include installation.

TOLL FREE **877-200-6646**  
[FreeGeneratorGuide.com](http://FreeGeneratorGuide.com)

96843X © 2017




Wild Horse and Burro Program  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 U.S. Department of the Interior

## Wild Horse & Burro Adoption Ewing IL

August 5, 2017  
 September 9, 2017

**Friday 12 noon – 5pm**  
 Preview animals and submit applications. Animals will be available for \$125 to approved adopters on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Saturday 8am – 4pm**  
 Preview animals and submit applications. Animals will be available for \$125 to approved adopters on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Eastern States Adoption and Holding Facility**  
 22295 Sheep Farm Road, Ewing, IL 62864

**Directions:** The facility is located about 20 miles south of Mt. Vernon, IL. Traveling south on I-57, take Exit 77 for IL 154, and turn east onto IL 154 just briefly. At the stop, turn Left (north) onto IL 37. Go about 1 mile, and turn Right (east) onto Ewing Rd. Continue for about 6 miles, passing through the town of Ewing. Turn Left (north) onto Sheep Farm Rd and go about 1-1/2 miles. There will be a fence line on the Left. At the Tstop, turn Left (north) onto Bobtail Rd, then Left again into the facility.

Adoption by appointment available each Tuesday and Thursday from 9am - 4pm.  
 Call 1-800-293-1781 or email [jneugeb@blm.gov](mailto:jneugeb@blm.gov).

For more information visit [BLM.gov](http://BLM.gov) or call 866.468.7826

**ILLINOIS PROPERTIES NEEDED:** Horse, Hobby or Mini Farms, Land, Country Estates, Log or Lake Homes. Premier Marketing Program specializes in rural Illinois. Buyers prefer our #1 country website, **FarmAndLakeHouses.com**. Get better exposure – largest MLS (35,790 agents includes Chicago), 100's of websites & ads in equine, recreational & outdoor magazines. Exclusive Real Estate Booth showcases listings to 40,000+ attendees at sport, horse & outdoors shows across Illinois! Since 1991, Farm and Lake Houses R.E. - managing broker **Jerry Grodesky (217) 386-4220**.

**Wanted to buy:** Standing timber. All species, except pine. Pallet material for sale. Southern Illinois Area. **618-893-4223**.

**40 Acres of Woods Located** in Hardin County Illinois. Perfect Hunting Ground! **\$70,000. 618-527-6171**

**Medicare Supplement Insurance**

AGE	Plan F	Plan G
65	\$111.70	\$88.64
70	\$124.82	\$100.36
75	\$145.16	\$118.50

These female prices apply for MOST Illinois counties  
**Call John Dryden!**  
**Tel: (877) 695-0245**  
**www.kddi-ins.com**  
 ~"Relax, we've got your back"~

**Our 50th year** | Fulton County, IL

**Fall Festival**  
 (SW of Peoria)  
**Oct 7, 8 & 14, 15 - 2017**

Arts, Crafts, Demonstrations, Foods, Historic sites, Antiques and Collectibles  
**19 Villages/Areas along 100 mile route**  
**Info: www.spoonriverdrive.org**  
**Call: 309-647-8980**  
**Vendor Info: 309-221-2799 or rkost1@yahoo.com**

**SLOAN IMPLEMENT** | 1.800.745.4020  
 www.sloans.com

**YOUR DEERE, STIHL & HONDA DEALER**

**20 LOCATIONS IL & WI**

**JOHN DEERE** | **STIHL** | **HONDA Power Equipment**

**NEW and IMPROVED DR® Field and Brush Mowers**

**Faster...Easier... Lower-Priced!**

Mow fields, brush, even saplings with never-before ease!

- ✓ **NEW WIDE CUT MODELS** for faster mowing!
- ✓ **NEW POWER STEERING** for easier handling!
- ✓ **NEW LOW PRICES** reduced up to \$500!

**ROUGH CUT & FINISH MOWERS—**  
*the most complete selection available.*

**20 HP, PRO MAX-34**

**ATTENTION: TRACTOR AND ATV OWNERS! NEW MODELS starting at \$1399<sup>99</sup>**

**FREE SHIPPING | 6 MONTH TRIAL | EASY FINANCING**  
 SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY. CALL OR GO ONLINE FOR DETAILS.

Call for **FREE DVD and Catalog!**  
 TOLL FREE **877-202-1316**  
**DRfieldbrush.com**

96842X © 2017

**BUILT STRONGER.  
LOOKS BETTER. LASTS LONGER.**



RESIDENTIAL | FARM | EQUESTRIAN | COMMERCIAL | COMMUNITY | REPAIRS

When you build with Morton, you build something that lasts. A Morton stands the test of time—we've been at this for more than 110 years after all. What got us here is simple: our materials, our people and a warranty that beats all others.

Search "4326" on [mortonbuildings.com](http://mortonbuildings.com) for more photos and video of this building.



©2017 Morton Buildings, Inc. A listing of GC licenses available at [mortonbuildings.com/licenses](http://mortonbuildings.com/licenses). Ref Code 607

**Insulation.** 4x8 sheets, foil-backed foam. All factory seconds. [www.nichols5.com](http://www.nichols5.com). Contact Ken Nichols, 800-424-1256.

**Wanted: Standing timber.** This cash crop needs harvested like any other crop. Cash in while prices are good. Call 618-423-9285.

**DIMENSION BUILDINGS**

*Best Buildings at the Best Price*  
For a Complete 30x50 Deluxe Pole Barn Package *only* **\$3,650**  
**CALL (618) 997-9568**  
[www.dimensionbldgs.com](http://www.dimensionbldgs.com)  
All Sizes Available Marion, IL



**SANGAMON RADIANT**

uponor aqua pex tubing products for agricultural, commercial shop floors and homes

(217)971-8592 • FAX (217)483-7973 • Evening (217)483-3223  
**John D. McMillan - Owner**

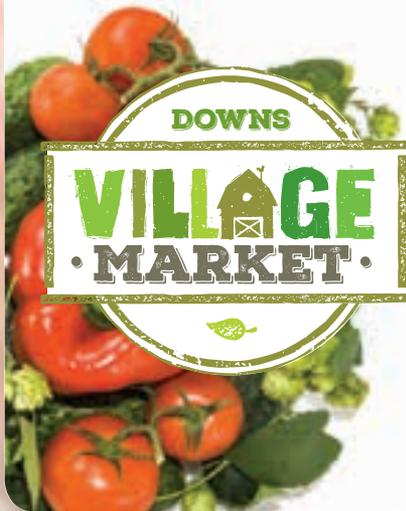
**Put your message in over 189,000 Illinois mailboxes**

**Advertise in Illinois Country Living**

Every issue of *Illinois Country Living* is delivered to the mailboxes of over 189,000 homes, farms and businesses throughout Illinois. With a readership of over a million, no other publication — magazine or newspaper — even comes close to reaching so many potential customers for your product, service or destination. Find out how easy it is to advertise and to take advantage of Illinois' Most Powerful Reach!

**Contact: Brandy Riley**  
**(217) 241-7953**  
**[briley@aiec.coop](mailto:briley@aiec.coop)**





### Downs Village Market



**WHEN:** Wednesdays through Sept. 27, 2017

**WHERE:** Southwest edge of Downs, IL, just off I-74

**EMAIL:** marketmaster610@gmail.com

Celebrating the 15th season of selling locally grown and select regional produce, meat, baked goods, honey, plant and flowers, quality crafts and handmade items. Includes weekly musical entertainment, friendly vendors and convenient parking. Master Gardeners are available to answer your gardening questions.



### World's Largest Catsup Bottle Festival



**WHEN:** July 9, 2017

**WHERE:** Woodland Park, 302 Pine Lake Rd., Collinsville, IL 62234

**COST:** FREE

**WEBSITE:** <http://catsupbottlefestival.com/>

A birthday party celebration for the World's Largest Catsup Bottle historic landmark featuring food, drinks, old-fashioned party games, hula hoop competition, spin the bottle and more. Other events include ketchup tasting and the tater tots and hot dogs (smothered in catsup) eating contests. Plus, there is the Little Princess Tomato and Sir Catsup pageant and the Cruzin' In Antiques Classic Car Show.



### Lincoln's Festival on Route 66



**WHEN:** July 14-16, 2017

**WHERE:** Various locations in Bloomington-Normal

**WEBSITE:** [www.mchistory.org](http://www.mchistory.org) for a full schedule of activities

This Illinois Route 66 Red, White & Blue Corridor signature event includes Encounters with Lincoln – Live History performances in downtown Bloomington, Civil War skirmishes on the Illinois Wesleyan University campus, Historic Walking Tour and Talks at the McLean County Museum of History, a Vintage Bicycle Display at the David Davis Mansion, a car show, movies, family fun, music and more. Call 309-827-0428 or go to the website above for more information.

# Switch from propane to geothermal and you will save money by the truckload.



Stay comfortable all year round while saving 50% to 80% on heating and cooling costs. Using the constant temperature of the earth, with a ClimateMaster geothermal heating and cooling system you can eliminate your need for propane.

Find out how much you can save. Call now.



*The smart way to a more comfortable home.*

Visit us at: [climatemaster.com](http://climatemaster.com)

**Albion, IL**  
Complete HVAC, Plbg, &  
Electrical  
618-445-3329

**Bloomington, IL**  
Master Brothers  
309-661-0400

**Carbondale, IL**  
Jacobs Air Conditioning &  
Heating, Inc.  
618-529-2989

**Champaign, IL**  
Lanz Heating & Cooling  
217-202-6858

**Divernon, IL**  
Weidner Refrigeration  
217-628-3400

**Fairfield, IL**  
Hayes Plumbing and Heating  
618-847-3121

**Freeport, IL**  
Jansen Heating  
815-262-4373

**Harrisburg, IL**  
Cannan Htg & Clg  
618-273-4476

**Pana, IL**  
Holthaus Heating & Appliance  
217-562-3631

**Pekin, IL**  
Central Heating & A/C  
309-346-6100

**Rochelle, IL**  
Anderson Plumbing & Heating  
815-562-8784

**Steeleville, IL**  
Williams Heating & A/C  
618-965-2040

**Taylorville, IL**  
Yard Heating & Cooling  
217-824-4737

**Toluca, IL**  
Energy Specialists Co.  
800-782-7491

**Tonica, IL**  
Town & Country Services  
Plumbing - Heating - Electric  
815-442-3415

**Vandalia, IL**  
Hunter Appliance Heating &  
Cooling  
618-283-3224

**Warren, IL**  
B&R Plumbing  
815-541-8031

**Winchester, IL**  
Little Heating & Air  
Conditioning  
217-742-3332

## Both of these devices create hot air but which uses less power?



**Hair Dryer**  
1,500 watts



**7 Series  
Geothermal Heat Pump**  
900 watts<sup>1</sup>

### WaterFurnace—The smartest way to heat and cool your home.

You may not realize it, but your home is sitting on a free and renewable supply of energy. A WaterFurnace geothermal heat pump taps into the stored solar energy in your yard to provide savings up to 70% on heating, cooling, and hot water...using less power than a typical hair dryer. It's a smart investment in your family's comfort—and it won't cause split ends. Contact your local WaterFurnace dealer today and find out how much you can save by switching to geothermal.



visit us at [waterfurnace.com](http://waterfurnace.com)

**Damiansville**  
Toennies Service Co.  
(618) 248-5130

**Decatur**  
Design Air  
(217) 429-1105

**Delevan**  
Jeckel Plmb & Htg  
(309) 244-8265

**Effingham**  
Jansen's Htg & Air  
(217) 347-5223

**Flora/Fairfield**  
Electro-Electric  
(618) 662-4520

**Gifford**  
Duden & Silver  
(217) 568-7954

**Goodfield**  
Hinrichsen Htg  
(309) 965-2604

**Lawrenceville**  
Tracy Electric  
(618) 943-2243

**Macomb**  
Arnold Bros. Htg & Clg  
(309) 833-2852

**Marion**  
D & C Htg & Clg  
(618) 997-6577

**Mt. Vernon**  
Toennies Service Co.  
(618) 248-5130

**Paxton/Gibson City**  
Houston Plmb  
(217) 379-2329

**Springfield**  
Collins Plmb & Htg  
(217) 793-8031

**Thomasboro**  
Hoveln Htg & Clg  
(217) 643-2125

**Virden**  
Snells Plmb  
(217) 965-3911

