

## Nuclear power:

# An acceptable alternative available today

Much misinformation about nuclear power has appeared in the media in recent months. Your cooperative feels that nuclear power is not only essential to our future, but also the most environmentally acceptable alternative available today.

Following are excerpts from a July 20, 1977, discussion about nuclear power that appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, accompanied by a thorough discussion of the safety and benefits of nuclear power. Dressler Industries, Inc. provided the questions and Professor Peter Beckmann, University of Colorado, and Professor Bernard L. Cohen, University of Pittsburgh, the answers.

- Q. Ralph Nader claims that nuclear power is not safe. He says it is also unnecessary if Americans will cut their energy demand enough. Just how safe is nuclear power?
- A. Compared to other forms of large scale energy conversion, nuclear power is the safest. It is the safest not just in some aspects, but in all aspects, including terrorism and sabotage, and certainly including power plant operations, accidents and waste disposal.
- Q. What are the chances that a nuclear plant will blow up?
- A. The idea that a nuclear plant can blow up like an atomic bomb is just preposterous. It is physically impossible. Not highly improbable, but utterly impossible. An explosive nuclear chain reaction is no more likely with the type of uranium used as power plant fuel than it would be with pickled cucumbers. This is because uranium for explosives is enriched to more than 90 percent "pure," while uranium used to generate nuclear power is only 3.5 percent "pure." As for Nader's claim that

nuclear power is unnecessary, that argument is false and irrelevant. Even if it were possible to cut back our energy demand by 50 percent (which I don't for a moment believe), it would still make sense to generate the rest by the safest method possible, which is nuclear.

Q. But there have been "incidents" at nuclear power plants that lead people to believe disastrous accidents are possible.

- A. Scare tactics by self-appointed "experts" and irresponsible reporting by the press have made some people believe that. All industrial operations occasionally have operating problems. But when these happen in a nuclear plant, they are talked about in "doomsday" or "end of the earth" terms. When the Fermi reactor in Michigan had a partial fuel core melt down in 1966, there was no difficulty in promptly shutting down the reactor. All their safety systems worked exactly as planned. The reactor was later repaired and resumed operation. Ten years afterward, a reporter wrote a book about it called "We Almost Lost Detroit." It was blatantly false, and widely quoted. There is nothing that could possibly have happened in that plant to cause a loss of life in Detroit. We have 66 nuclear reactors now licensed to operate in the U.S. Last year they generated almost 10 percent of our electricity. There has not been a single reactor-related fatality in the generation of commercial power anywhere in the United States. On the other hand, between 20 and 100 lives are lost each year for every 1,000 megawatts of electricity generated by burning fossil fuels.

Q. What about an accidental "melt" of the uranium fuel core?

- A. If there were a total loss of cooling, which is unlikely, considering all the safety precautions and back-up systems, the molten core would gradually melt through the pressure vessel and the concrete floor and sink into the ground. It would be a slow process during which corrective action could be taken. Otherwise, it would eventually stabilize in a pocket of fused earth at a depth of 20 feet or so, possibly more, where it would be safe until salvage operations could begin.

Q. How serious is air pollution from a nuclear power plant.

- A. A nuclear plant causes no air pollution. Its only emission is a low-level radioactivity. The radiation that a person is exposed to by living within 25 miles of a nuclear plant is less than he would get from one coast-to-coast airplane flight every ten years, or from spending one day per year in Colorado, where the natural radiation is twice the national average.

## Area meetings scheduled

Your cooperative is scheduling a series of area get-togethers with members in small groups throughout the system this year. Topics include "Electric Rates," "The Energy Crisis," "Member Electric Service," "Conservation," and "How Your Cooperative Is Run."

When your notice is mailed to you, you are urgently requested to exercise your cooperative membership by attending the meeting in your area. See ya there!

## Grain dryer reminder

If you are planning a grain dryer installation during 1979, please contact your cooperative by June 1, 1979, in order that construction may be scheduled in time for the harvest season.

*Dennis Keiser, AIEC Energy Utilization Specialist, works with electric cooperative personnel in matters relating to energy conservation, insulation and energy efficiency.*



## Energy conservation policy now an REA loan requirement

Changes in loan-making policies of the Rural Electrification Administration now call for each REA-financed electric cooperative to develop energy conservation policy and to implement it with adequate staff and funding.

"These policies suggest guidelines for rural electric systems to use in developing energy conservation programs," Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland said, "but the basic decisions on how to carry out the programs will be left to the individual cooperatives." REA Administrator Robert W. Feragen added, "Evidence of such activities will be included as part of REA's loan application procedures."

A related REA policy developed in conjunction with energy conservation is one that outlines guidelines for rural electric systems to use in obtaining information for system planning and for forecasting REA loan fund requirements.

"These new policies were developed after extensive review of the energy conservation programs of more than 250 electric utilities," Feragen said, "and incorporate many of the suggestions received by REA from its borrowers."

(REA makes loans to finance electric and telephone facilities in rural areas, enabling more than 1,000 REA-financed systems—including 30 in Illinois—to provide service to over

29 million people in 46 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.)

Alex Mercure, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development, said the REA conservation efforts are extensions of those of the Carter Administration and are not aimed at bringing about immediate reductions in the amount of power being provided to electric cooperative members. Instead, he said, the efforts are thought to be means to forestall the construction of major new generating projects through elimination of energy waste.

Delaying through energy conservation the need to add

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**“. . . the basic decisions on how to carry out the programs will be left to the individual cooperatives.”**

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additional generating plant capacity can have an impact on slowing the rate of increase of consumer electric rates, since generating plant construction is one of the most significant factors affecting rates.

The heart of the REA policy on energy conservation is the guideline that a cooperative made up of 4,000 or more members should have one

person working full time (or the equivalent time of several persons) to assist members to conserve energy. "If a cooperative has more than 4,000 members, the man-hours devoted to energy conservation should be appropriate to its work plan and objectives and consistent with the greatest number of members. This guideline would not require a cooperative of 16,000 to have four people working full time. It would require, however, an allocation greater than the time of one person," Feragen outlined in a memo. For cooperatives with less than 4,000 members, REA will give consideration to the pooling of resources with other organizations.

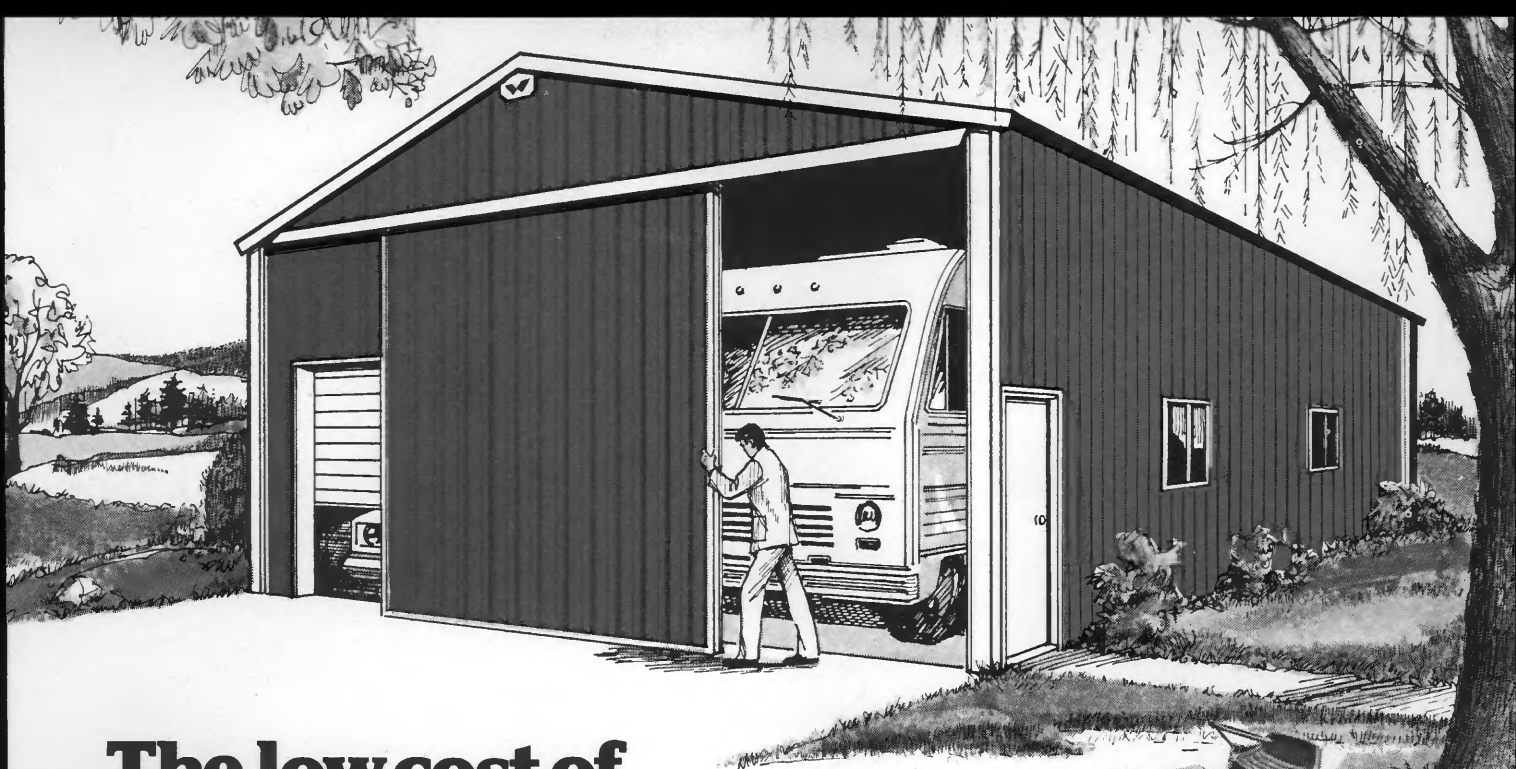
Future loan applications must include the following.

- a copy of the board's energy conservation policy,
- a report of borrower's effort to conserve energy in the operation of its headquarters and facilities, and
- a report describing the efforts of the borrower to assist its consumers to use energy most efficiently.

While the REA energy conservation guidelines are new, the emphasis on member awareness of wise, efficient use of electric energy has long been a top priority for electric cooperative staffs. And for many cooperatives, conforming to the new policy may

*(Continued on page 24)*

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS



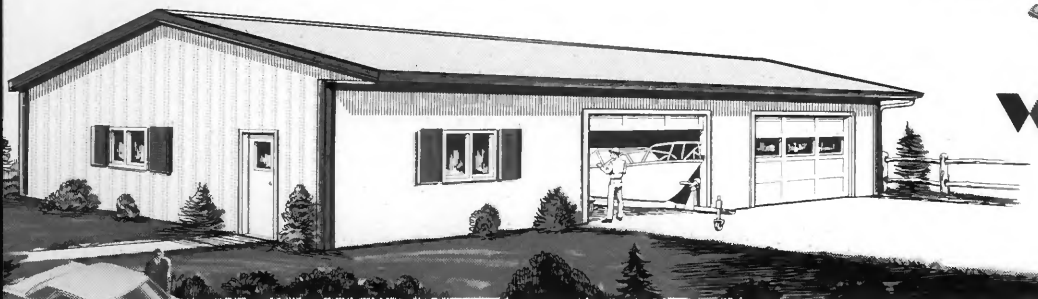
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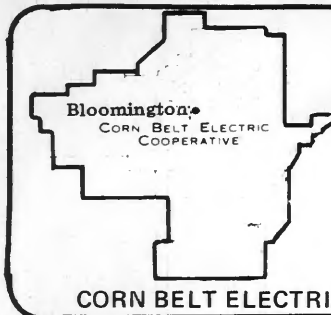
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# Corn Belt Electric News

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

309-662-5330

BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

## An essential part of farm operations

Electric energy is no longer a household luxury. Electricity has become an essential servant for farm and home—and it is no longer a minor inconvenience when the power goes off, especially if the outage lasts several hours or more.

For many, an outage means the discomfort of a furnace that does not run, or a refrigerator or freezer full of food that may spoil.

For others, a prolonged outage may mean that several hundred head of livestock in confinement buildings may die.

Whether electricity is a major convenience or an extreme necessity, you may be wise to look into the possibility of buying a standby generator for your farm or home. Electric cooperatives have built an admirable record for dependable service, but occasional, prolonged outages are unavoidable, usually due to severe weather such as tornadoes, lightning or ice storms.

Whether you buy a 35,000-watt generator or a 2,000-watt unit like many central Illinoisans did during the Easter ice storm outage, you should be absolutely sure your unit is isolated from the cooperative's lines any time it is generating current.

You can start up a generator any time and plug a few appliances into the outlets that are often built into such units. But any time you wire it into your home's fuse box or connect at the meter pole, you will need a double-throw switch. Such switches protect the linemen working to restore service, and they protect your generator, too.

When you are using current from cooperative lines, the transformer at your location is stepping the voltage

down from 7,200 to the 120 and 240 that you use in your home. When you run your generator and it is hooked into the lines, the current flows the other way, and the 120-volt electricity you are making flows into the transformer and goes out the other side as 7,200-volt current, ready to give a lethal shock to a lineman who may have assumed that the line was dead.

And, the double-throw switch protects your generator, too. When the current from the normal source comes back on, it may ruin your generator unless it is isolated from the lines by a double-throw switch.

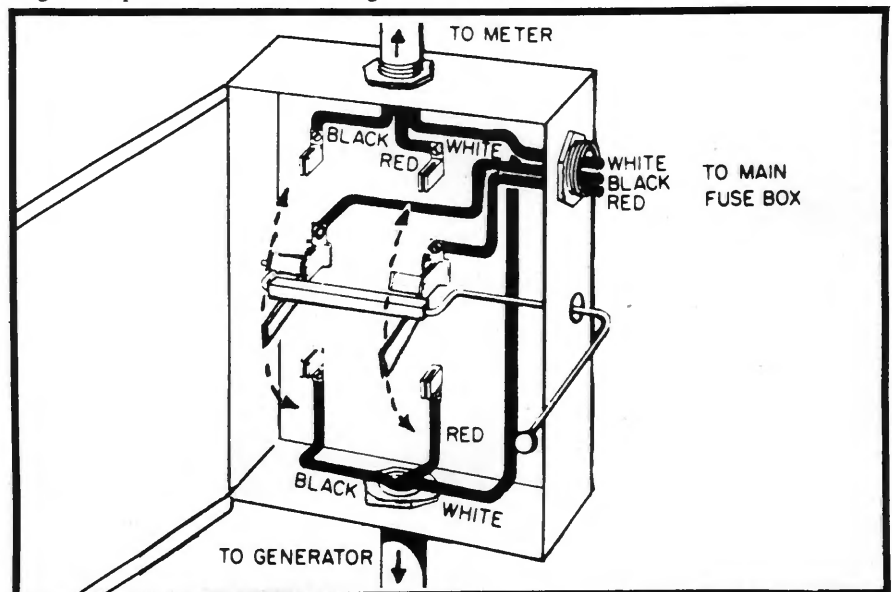
Determining the size of the generator you will need in the event of an outage may be a bit tricky, and may best be done with the help of your cooperative's power use advisor. Generally, though, the watt rating of the generator you purchase should be about equal to the total watts you might expect to need during an

outage.

If the generator does not have overload capacity, multiply the watt rating of your two largest motors by three, because a motor requires about three times as much current to start as it does to run.

A generator will be a help during an outage only if it's ready to go when an outage occurs. It should be stored in a dry, dustless place, but not covered too tightly (to prevent moisture condensation). And, it should be run briefly at least once every three months to ensure good running characteristics.

We hope you will not need to use a standby generator, but no electric distribution system that is exposed to wind and weather can hold up without occasional outages. If it is vital that you have electricity at all times, a source of standby power might be a good investment—but do not forget that double-throw switch.



*Double-throw switches protect the linemen working to restore service and they protect your generator, too.*



Enter now

# Washington, D.C. Youth Tour for high school students

Ten high school youth from high schools within the Corn Belt Electric Cooperative service area will again be selected to attend Youth Day at our State Capital April 18, 1979. One student will go on to Washington, D.C., to meet with our national leaders June 8-15, 1979.

The ten students attending Springfield Youth Day will tour the State Museum and the Capitol building, and make "VIP" visits to the House and Senate galleries, the Lincoln Home, and the Governor's mansion. A luncheon and dinner will afford the students an opportunity to meet with our legislative leaders, and meet Governor Thompson and Lt. Governor Dave O'Neal.

One student will represent Corn Belt Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., with delegates from other rural electric cooperatives from throughout the United States. For one week, students will tour Washington, D.C. sites and meet with national leaders, including President Carter. Our Illinois legislators will host various meetings with the students.

These youth programs are sponsored by your cooperative as part of a national rural electric program of educating youth for their leadership of tomorrow.

#### Who May Enter

High school students enrolled in the 10th and 11th grades (sophomore or junior class) enrolled in a school district all or partly served by Corn Belt Electric Cooperative, Inc., including the following schools: LeRoy, Tri-Valley, Heyworth, Normal Community, Lexington, Octavia, Chenoa, Gridley, Saybrook-Arrowsmith, Olympia, Bloomington, Bellflower, University, Central Catholic, Argenta-Oreana, Clinton, Delavan, El Paso, Eureka, Farmer City-Mansfield, Hartsburg-Emden, Maroa, Morton, Monticello, Roanoke-Benson, Tremont, Wapella, Deland-Weldon, Deer Creek-Mackinaw, and Warrensburg-Latham.

#### Basis of Selecting Winners

Participating students will be selected on the basis of an essay, not to exceed 1,500 words, and an oral presentation on the subject "Our Energy Future—How Do We Get There?" Ten finalists will attend Youth Day in Springfield and receive a gift certificate. The best essay entrant will be sent to Washington, D.C., with delegates from other Illinois electric cooperatives.

Essays will be judged by an impartial panel of judges on the basis of originality, content, accuracy of fact, composition, and oral presentation.

Entry information and research materials are available by contacting your cooperative office, P.O. Box 816, Bloomington, IL 61701, or by phone, (309) 662-5330. Information is also being provided high schools.

#### Essay Deadline

Essays and entry blanks must be received by noon, Monday, April 2, 1979. Enter now!

FEBRUARY 1979



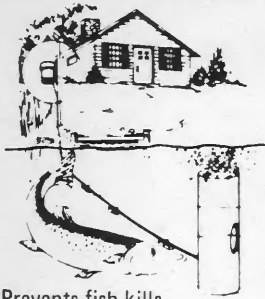
*Last year winner, Pat Schmidgall: "Thanks for letting the 'Youth to Washington' be possible. . .just returned and I'm all tuckered out. But Oh, my — I had such a great time (I even shook the President's hand). . .It's all such a great opportunity. Thanks again."*



*Last year's finalists posed on the State Capitol steps. From left to right: Pat Schmidgall, Gary Huth, Steve Albright, Lana Fandel, Public Affairs Director Dave Dunnell, Rebecca Cortright, Alan Hupp, Kim Shields, Pam Locke, Power Use Adviser Vince Ijams, Twilla Ijams, Lisa Fassino, and Michael Long.*

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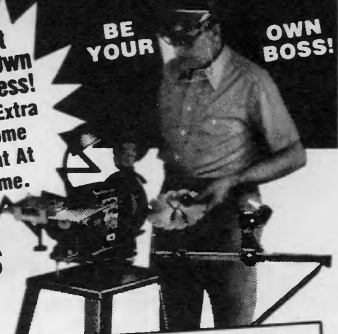
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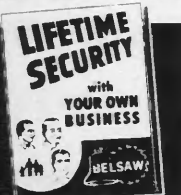
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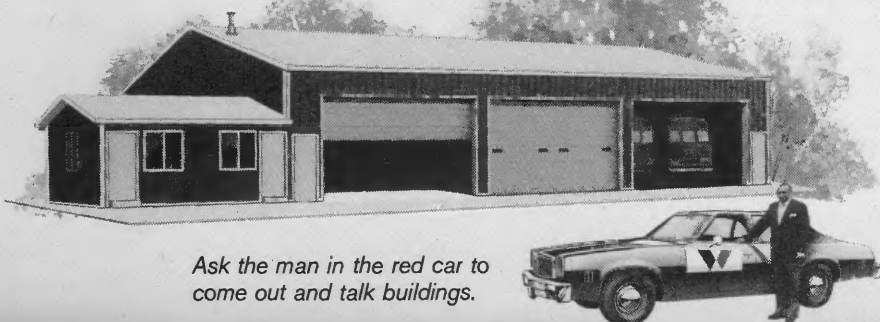
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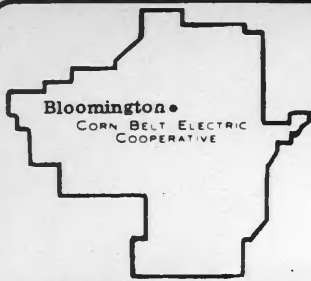
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# Corn Belt Electric News

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

309-662-5330

BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

## Your manager reports

by G.V. Beer



Beer

Your May 1 bills will reflect a rate increase that begins with kilowatt-hours used on or after March 1. The increase is designed to increase operating revenues by approximately 9.5 percent, or \$498,000.

The year 1978 was a bad one for Corn Belt. We incurred a net operating loss of \$75,500. As in any business, it is necessary to maintain a margin to meet the lending requirements and financial ratios of our bankers. Ravaged by ice storms in April, December and again in January, we became the financial victim of mother nature. The rate increase will generate revenue to be used for the following:

1. To pay for increases in operating costs due to our ever-spiraling inflation. The cost of material, labor, and equipment continues to rise significantly on an annual basis.

2. To pay for interest expenses of borrowed capital required for major system improvements to meet the electrical demands of our consumer-members. More than \$3.5-million was expended during 1978 for new substations, new and uprated distribution lines, and other system improvements.

3. To facilitate payments on additional long-term debt incurred as the result of borrowing \$1.9-million to repair the ice storm damage mentioned earlier.

Announcing rate increases is the hardest thing I have to do. We are willing to consider all reasonable alternatives short of threatening your cooperative's ability to distribute electricity to you on a reliable basis. I would like to emphasize again that we are doing everything we possibly can to exert pressure on the forces outside this organization that contribute to the rising cost of electricity.

We are presently holding meetings with groups of members throughout our system. If your area or organization would like representatives of your cooperative to be available for a presentation and information relating to energy costs, we'd be pleased to attend. Please let us know how we can respond further to this and other matters concerning the operation of your cooperative.

## Don't forget your annual meeting

Your cooperative's annual meeting will be held Saturday, March 3, 1979, at 1 p.m. in the Bloomington High School auditorium. Registration of members begins at 12 noon.

Prizes and special drawings will again be featured. A special "Early-Bird" drawing will be held for those registering early.

The program will be highlighted by a stimulating presentation of our future Illinois electric energy sources. An interlude of local entertainment will also be featured.

Plan now to attend and help us make this year's annual meeting the best ever. See ya there!

## Different families require differing amounts of electricity

Different families use different amounts of electricity. There are high, low and average bills. High bills can be avoided. Why not check the following items in your home?

**Water heater:** Locate the heater as near as possible to sink, bathroom and laundry area.

**Faucet leaks:** Stop all leaking faucets, especially hot water taps, by replacing washers.

**Pump:** A water-logged pump stops and starts repeatedly as water is drawn off a tap. Proper air volume controls on pump will maintain correct water and air ratio.

**Lights:** Do not leave unnecessary lights on when or where they are not needed.

**Freezer:** Defrost freezer when frost has built up on cooling coils. Use a vacuum to remove dust and lint from radiator coils and motor. If it runs almost constantly, check refrigerant fluid; it may be low.

**Refrigerators:** Same thing applies here as for freezers. Also check gaskets on doors. If air can escape, change to new gaskets.



## Grain dryer reminder

If you are planning a grain dryer installation during 1979, please contact your cooperative by June 1, 1979, in order that construction may be scheduled in time for the harvest season.

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS



of food processing, transportation and storage. . .the so-called middleman. . .have pushed up the cost of food in the United States, not the farmer who produces the raw materials.

Back in 1967 Corn Belt members paid their cooperative \$25.45 for 1,000 kilowatt-hour (kwh) consumption. Following the March cost increase 1,000 kwh will cost \$59.90, including tax. We're all aware that rising wholesale power costs are responsible for the rising electric rates Corn Belt members pay. What we are not aware of is the impact of government regulations on our wholesale power costs, and the resulting burden to our members. (Credit: MJM News)

# The cost benefits of reducing peak demand

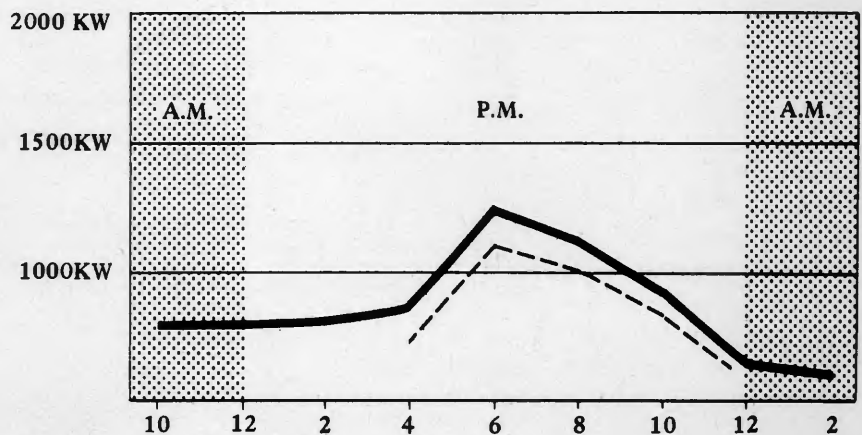
Peak load management has become a very popular topic as a result of the soaring cost of producing electric energy. Corn Belt Electric Cooperative's wholesale power bills are calculated not only on the basis of total kilowatt-hour (kwh) of energy usage but also on the maximum kilowatt (kw) of demand for a 30-minute period. The demand charge is that part of the cost designed to reimburse the power supplier for the cost of having sufficient generating plant capacity. Costs of providing adequate electric generating capacity, like the costs of most all consumer items, are increasing rapidly. In addition to inflation, other factors which push up the cost of power plants include environmental restrictions requiring nonproductive and costly pollution control equipment additions which decrease the efficiency of the power production process, while at the same time increasing the capital investment costs. It is similar to what is happening to costs of new automobiles. Emission-control equipment has been added, increasing the cost of purchase and, because this equipment (emission controls) makes the engine less efficient, your cost of operation (fuel and maintenance) goes up.

Energy conservation is also a very popular topic, especially with our growing awareness that world energy sources are limited. Alternate energy sources have not yet been sufficiently developed to make individual electrical energy conservation practices practical for the average person in the long run. While we are waiting for technology to supply us with the means to shift our energy demands for commercially produced electricity to other sources, we should make use of the various load management techniques at our disposal to help keep the cost of using electricity as low as possible.

You can help keep the cost of electric power down by knowing when peak demand periods occur. The demand curve for one of our substations is shown below. The partial day of November 30, 1978 is presented and represents a winter peak day. The peak demand charge for the entire month of December was established by 5:45 p.m. on this day. Our billing demand of 1179.6 kw established a demand cost of \$7,652.18 and led to a total energy bill for this substation of \$20,824.20.

There are 588 members supplied by this substation and if they could have reduced their usage on the average by 510 watts (slightly more than the wattage used by five 100-watt light bulbs) per member during this peak period from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. it would effectively reduce the power cost \$1,289.48. This is a 6.2 percent savings. Cutting use by 510 watts is not very much; it is less than one burner on an electric stove. Cutting down 510 watts should not inconvenience the average family to any noticeable degree.

These peaks affect all our bills, as the power costs are passed through. Any reduction in these peaks will be beneficial in reducing the power costs. Listen for peak alerts on the radio, develop a peak awareness and do as much as you can to help hold the peak down.



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**8¢**

He has worked with solar for 15 years

(Continued from page 9)

ice fall on it, just like it does on the glass ones. We're researching it out carefully, just like we do everything. You have to research carefully, because the manufacturers give you the top side. They don't lie to you, but they tend to give you facts based on optimum conditions.

"It's not good for the consumer if something goes wrong," he says, "and it wouldn't be good for us to have to go back and make the job good, which is exactly what we'd do. That's why we want to do it as well as possible. To protect us and the consumer."

The plastic is being used on one Solar Search product, though, he notes, and that is a portable, multi-use collector, which is to be mounted on a

"It's not good for the consumer if something goes wrong. That's why we want to do it as well as possible."


trailer, for farm applications. The idea is to use it for low-temperature grain drying in the fall, then possibly to heat a machine shed during the winter, and possibly for livestock buildings, too.

"It will be a simple, ready-to-use system," Warnock says, "just a big collector mounted on a trailer and with a flexible hose that will need to be plugged into whatever needs to be heated, and an electrical connection for the blower motor. We're all ready to go with the setup," he laughs, "but we don't have the trailer yet. Somewhere out there, there's a snowbound trailer that's going to hold our dryer. We'll get it out as soon as the weather permits."

In the meantime, work goes on, to build collectors and to research even better materials and methods, and to finally perfect the install-it-yourself system, including water heater, for under \$3,000.

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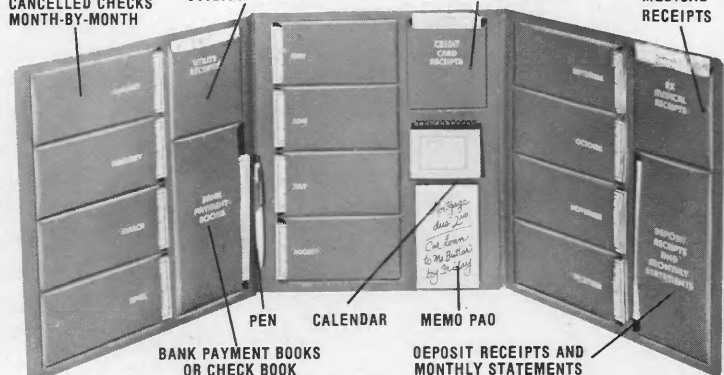


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when you can have a **Sportsman Utility Building**



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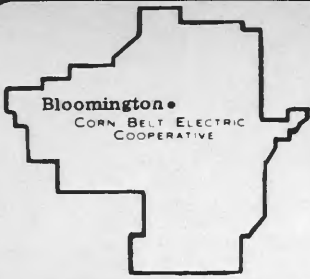
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# Corn Belt Electric News

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

309-662-5330

BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

In food or electric costs —

## 11 years makes a difference

We've reproduced on these pages those items from a recent advertisement and the 11-year-old ad where we could find directly comparable items. It is interesting to

note that food items such as potatoes or broccoli that are not processed have increased at least while processed foods such as bread have more than tripled in price. Inflation in the costs

**THEN...**  
 Broccoli  
 2 Bunches 49c

**NOW...**  
 FRESH TENDER BROCCOLI ..... bunch 58c

**THEN...**  
 Kroger — 20-oz. loaves  
 White Bread ... 6 For \$1.00

**NOW...**  
 KROGER WHITE OR WHEAT BUTTERCRUST BREAD ..... 2 20-oz. loaves \$1.09

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 CLOVER VALLE MARGARINE

**THEN...**  
 All Purpose White Potatoes  
 25 Lb. Bag \$1.00

**NOW...**  
 U.S. NO. 1 GENUINE IDAHO POTATOES  
 10-LB. SACK 59c

15 Lb. 5-LB. BAG ... 76c \$1.68

**THEN...**  
 Hunter, Krey, or Mayrose Ready to Eat, Whole Fully Cooked Ham Lb.

**NOW...**  
 SWIFT ALL AMERICAN WHOLE BONELESS HAM \$1.79 Lb.

49c

**THEN...**  
 Kroger Vac Pac 1 lb. can Coffee 67c

**NOW...**  
 KROGER VAC PAC COFFEE ..... 2-lb. can \$4.89



Members of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative reelected four directors to three-year terms on the board at the cooperative's 41st annual members' meeting. Directors, seated from left, are Frank L. Simpson of Farmer City, Dorothy Rengel of Bloomington and Thomas Johns of Delavan. Standing, from left, are Director Myron Erdman of Chenoa and Manager G. V. Beer.

## 'Speak out' survey a success

If you were one of the 2,556 members who responded to our survey in February, please accept our thanks! While a large majority of you indicated your satisfaction with service you have been receiving, many of you felt your cooperative could do more to help you conserve electricity. In addition, an overwhelming number of you indicated a willingness to participate in some form of "load management" by shaving appliance use during periods of peak power use.

The majority of you indicated:

- Overall satisfaction with electric service in general.
- That your cooperative can do more to help you conserve electricity.
- Willingness to participate in some form of load management as a way of cutting costs by interrupting the use of such things as water heaters and air conditioners for brief periods during high peak energy use.
- Only moderate concern about personally having a say in cooperative affairs.
- Only a moderate interest in attending area membership meetings.
- Reading the *Illinois Rural Electric News* 5 to 9 times you ranked news topics as follows: (1) Cutting your electric bill. (2) Preventing electrical hazards. (3) Conserving electrical energy. (4) Alternate energy sources. (5) Appliance and (6) Load Management. Lowest vote-getters were energy and legislative issues, and human-interest features.
- Willingness to spend more money to insulate or do other weatherization in the next two years.
- Corn Belt membership either less than three years or more than 10 years, and

## Notice

Please remember that if you are planning a dryer installation for your fall crop, you must have your plans approved by Corn Belt's Engineering Department prior to June 1, 1979, or we will not be able to guarantee service to your dryer by harvest time.

Contact us NOW before you purchase your dryer or add to your present system and help us help you.

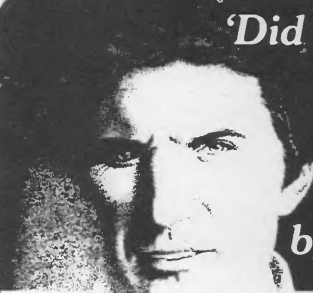
APRIL 1979

- Sixty-six percent of you claim a farm location with 34 percent claiming a subdivision or suburban residence. Some of the other services requested including other utilities, cable TV, alternate energy consulting, appliances, meter reading, conservation and energy management consultation, and "Don't do anything, it costs enough now!"

The 2,556 survey responses were tabulated by members of your Booster Committee, who met on a Saturday and during the week to hand-tabulate the responses. A big thanks to all of you who participated in this effort!

Comments received are still being evaluated by personnel of the various departments. The overall data will be used by your directors as a guide in evaluating present levels of service, as well to guide the formulation of energy use assistance to members.

**'Did you know that  
30 percent of  
your electric  
bill is caused  
by regulations?'**



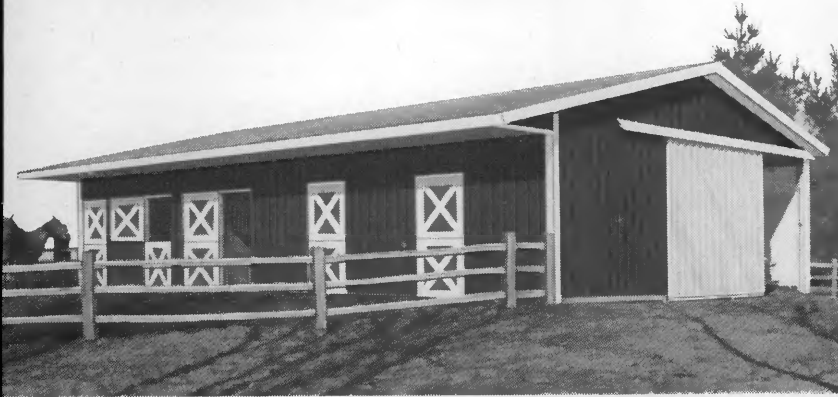
That's right. Environmental regulations add about 30 percent to the cost of your electricity.

The Federal Clean Air, Water Pollution Control, National Environmental Policy, Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Acts and the Illinois Environmental Protection Acts are the primary laws responsible for this increase in consumers' electric bills. Some well-meaning legislation was needed to correct past abuses of air and water uses. Much more was enacted in haste, responding to emotional appeals from a vocal minority of environmental pressure groups. Stilted court interpretations and a preponderance of agency regulations have added further to higher costs for electric consumers.

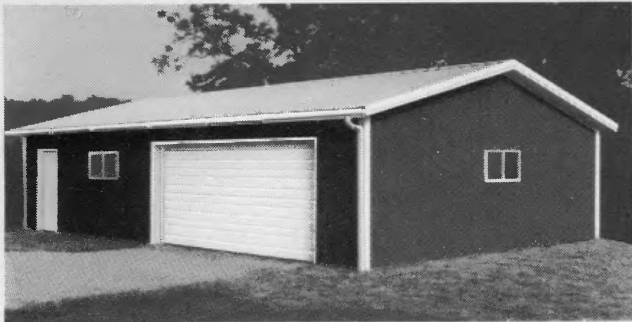
Because of environmental overregulation, about 25 to 35 cents of every dollar spent on construction of coal-fired power plants today is spent for environmental protection. Coupled with required operating costs, that's a high price for environmental controls — many of questionable value... and as always, the consumer pays the bill.

Electric cooperative leaders believe there should be balance between reasonable environmental safeguards and basic needs of consumers for affordable electricity. Legislation to reverse the adverse economic impact of overly strict environmental regulations could help put major domestic energy sources — coal and uranium — to work now, while developing wind, water and solar energy, to minimize future energy costs to electric consumers.

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# Legislator urges industry groups

Agriculture, Conservation and Energy Committee, added that agriculture had "not suffered at the hands of the Illinois General Assembly, nor will you suffer." On farm problems, Knuppel said they "rest in Washington," and emphasized the importance of looking toward Washington for help with problems facing agriculture.

Representative Gale Schisler of London Mills, Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, said the Illinois General Assembly was in Springfield to do the people's business. He added that he considered the House Agriculture Committee to be the most important in the General Assembly and urged agriculture groups to come forward with their ideas.

Illinois Agriculture Director John Block, the main speaker at the breakfast, called on the Legislature to help get agriculture's story across to the general population.

"We have plenty to be proud of. Look at ever-increasing productivity of the American farmer, who now feeds 56 of his fellow men across the state, the nation and the world," Block told the more than 600 attending.

Sid Hutchcraft, Executive Vice President of the Illinois Pork Producers Association and master of ceremonies, termed the breakfast "an opportunity for those of us in agriculture to better know the people who represent us and to help them understand the workings of Illinois largest industry."

Thirty-nine state agriculture commodity and industry groups, including the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, sponsored the breakfast.

APRIL 1979

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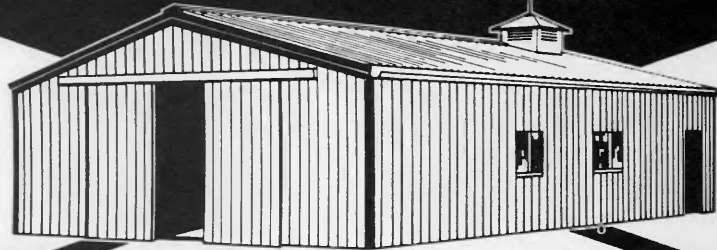
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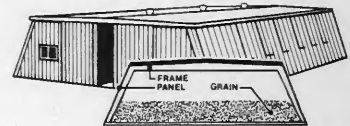


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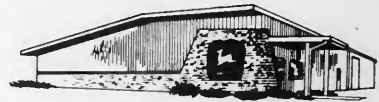
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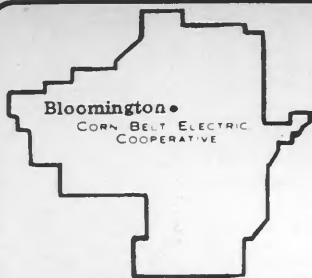
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# Corn Belt Electric News

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

309-662-5330

BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

## Annual meeting

### Cooperative costs climbing

Increasing inflation, three severe ice storms and higher interest rates on borrowed money combined to make Corn Belt Electric Cooperative a "financial victim" in 1978. Your electric cooperative ended the year with a net operating loss of \$75,000.

The grim news was echoed in cooperative official's reports to the membership at your cooperative's annual members' meeting on Saturday, March 3, at Bloomington Senior High School.

"The year 1978 was a bad one for Corn Belt," President Frank L. Simpson of Farmer City reported. "After more than 10 years without a major ice storm, who would believe we'd be ravaged by two in one year and another in January (1979)."

Damages to the cooperative's system totaled approximately \$1.8-million, according to reports, and another 50 miles of damaged line and electrical hardware awaits replacement in the east Maroa area.

Manager G. V. Beer explained why the cooperative's 1978 expenses outstripped revenues by \$75,000.

"About 20 percent of the cooperative's expenses are operating, maintenance and administrative costs and the other 80 percent of expenses are fixed costs, mostly power costs, over which we have little or no control," Beer said. "It has become impossible for the cooperative to continue absorbing inflationary cost increases for labor, materials and other operating expenses with no profit margin."

"To pay for the ice storm damages, we borrowed \$1.9-million from the Rural Electrification Administration. Had the (Carter) Administration



*Member Nancy Plunkett of Clinton talks with directors John W. H. Tompkins and Ralph Kahle about rates.*

declared an emergency and designated ours as a disaster area, we could have obtained financing at a more favorable interest rate."

Beer added that the cooperative's interest expenses have also increased on additional borrowed capital to finance "major system improvements to keep pace with the electrical demands of our consumer-members and maintain system reliability."

The manager reported that in order to meet these increased costs, the cooperative will implement a new rate schedule beginning with kilowatt-hours used after March 5, 1979. "The new schedule is designed to increase the cooperative's operating



**Gene Dressler**

revenues by 10.6 percent during 1979," he reported.

Vice President Gene Dressler of El Paso reported a 25 percent increase in the cost of purchased power in 1978. He attributed one-third of their power supplier's present generating costs to... "environmental overregulation."

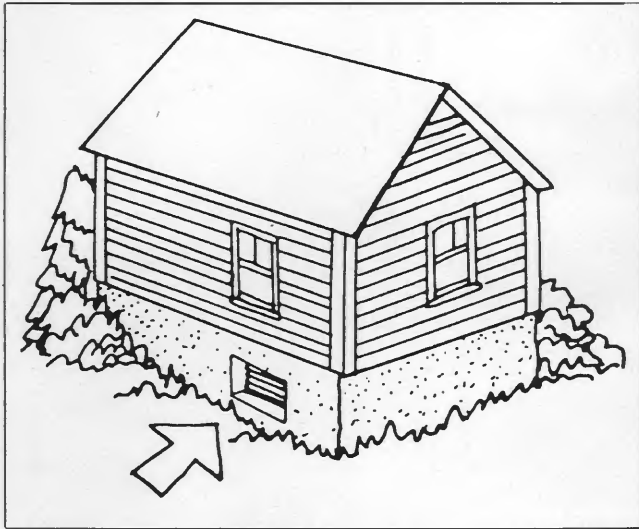
"At a time when our country's productivity is straining to meet anti-inflation and recession goals, energy capacity is being reduced and priced out of reach by self-serving environmental and zero energy growth interest groups," Dressler said. Beer attributed nearly 100 percent of electric utilities' cost increases over the past five years to activities of zero energy growth enthusiasts and environmental activists.

During the meeting, Richard Ruzich, manager of energy supply for Soyland Power Cooperative, an electric generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Decatur, presented a slide program on nuclear power plant operations and the construction progress of the Clinton Power Station. Through its affiliation with Soyland Power, Corn Belt and 14 other central Illinois electric cooperatives, has part ownership of generating capacity from the plant.

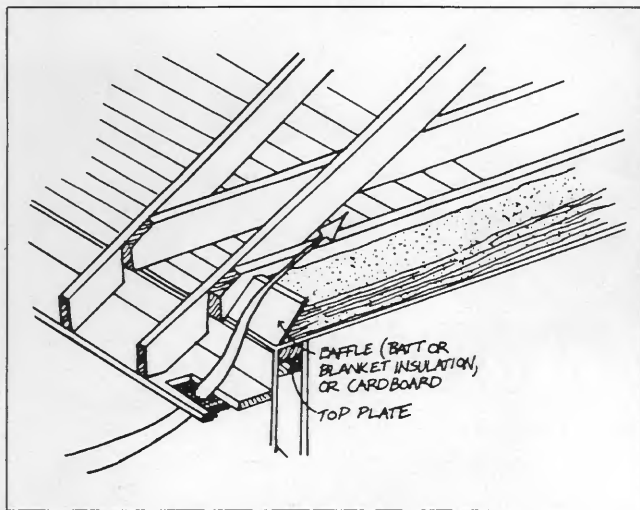
"Through our efforts in Soyland Power," Dressler said, "the cooperative is taking steps to ensure adequate power for the future and to help stabilize the cost of purchased power."

Dressler emphasized that a combination of coal and nuclear energy must be relied on to fuel electric power generation as a means of transition to the energy technology of the future. "We are concerned that unreasonable environmental delays seriously jeopardize our energy future," he said.

required. They should be located so air flows in one vent through the length of the crawl space and out the other vent. If no polyethylene is used to cover the ground, a vent needs to be added for every 150 square feet of crawl space. Vents need to be spaced around the perimeter to provide air movement under the floor.



Attic ventilation prevents conditions favorable for mildew growth. The attic can best be vented at the eaves and either at the gables or on top of the roof. In homes with a vapor barrier in the ceiling, combination eave and ridge vents should be sized to have one-half square foot at each eave and one square foot at ridge ( $\frac{1}{2}$  on each end) for every 300 square feet of ceiling space. If no vapor barrier is in the ceiling, the same is required for every 150 square feet of ceiling space.



Homes without eave vents can be vented through gable vents if they are sized properly. Homes already built which have only gable vents and no vapor barrier under the ceiling insulation should have one square foot of vent area for each 150 square feet of ceiling. One-half the vent area should be at the end of the roof to allow air movement. If a ceiling vapor barrier is provided under the ceiling insulation, as recommended, one square foot of vent area is required for each 300 square feet of ceiling area—again equally divided at each end.

## ATTIC VENTILATION AND ITS EFFECT ON COST FOR AIR CONDITIONING

The effects of increasing attic ventilation in order to reduce air conditioning cost has stirred controversy in many areas. According to research at the University of Florida, the reduction in cooling cost as a result of increasing ventilation rate from three air changes per hour (ACPH) (natural ventilation to 12 ACPH) (turbine ventilation) is only 3.4 percent. An additional reduction of 2.2 percent is realized when attic ventilation is increased from 12 ACPH to 24 ACPH (mechanical ventilation system). The same energy-saving benefits which are possible through attic ventilation can be achieved by additional ceiling insulation, provided moisture or mildew is not a problem. If mildew is present, additional ventilation is needed. The ceiling insulation has the added benefit in that it conserves heat energy in the winter as well.

### Grain dryer reminder

If you are planning a grain dryer installation during 1979, please contact your cooperative by June 1, 1979, in order that construction may be scheduled in time for the harvest season.

**It only took five years to put a man on the moon, but it takes ten years to build a power plant.**

**The hold-up is overregulation.**

Today, planners must allow 10 years to build a coal-fired power plant that, a decade ago, could be completed in three or four years at a cost of \$150 per kilowatt. And it costs six times more, or \$900 per kilowatt, today to build a generating station than it did just five years ago.

Time is big money . . . your money. So why all the expensive delays? Environmental regulations imposed on the electric utility industry have resulted in more costly, less efficient power production and an increasing economic burden on consumers.

No growth advocates attack with environmental regulations to slow down or stop needed power supply projects. Professional harassment through the regulatory licensing process is deliberately used as a weapon to delay electric energy development and increase energy costs. As always, the consumer is the victim.

More tragic than increased costs may be a shortfall of electric generating capacity in the 1980's. Then we may pay a more terrible price for the intervention, delays, litigation and prevailing confusion over our energy situation.

We're not saying "down with regulation" . . . far from it. Our energy intense nation must sensibly regulate its industries. But regulation bears a high price tag.

Let's not price energy out of reach. Commonsense regulation is in the consumer interest. Overregulation is not.



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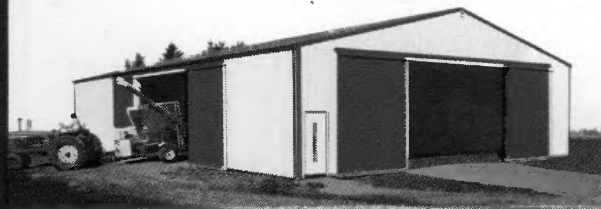
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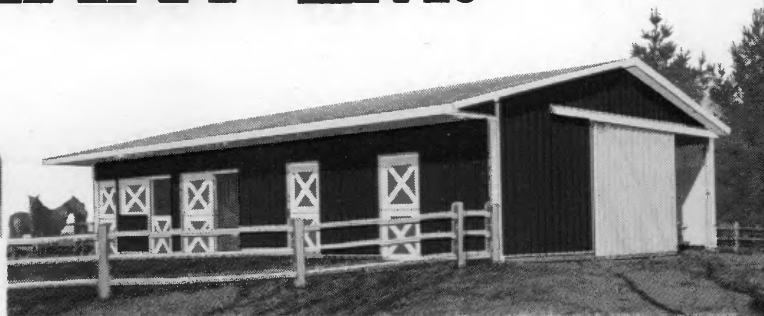
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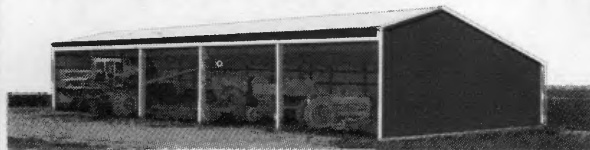
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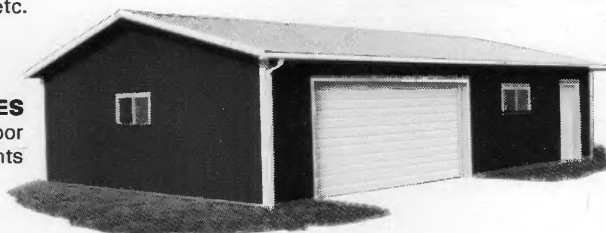
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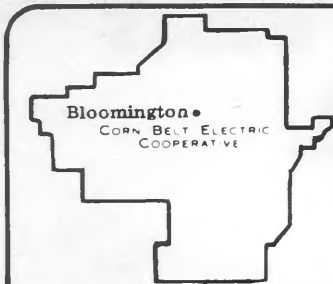
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# Corn Belt Electric News

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

309-662-5330

BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

## *Ventilating homes during summer months*

The economics of home air conditioning has caused many Illinoisans to seek less expensive means to beat the heat. As energy costs rise, more people will seek other means of providing home comfort rather than paying the price of central air conditioning.

### **PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVES TO AIR CONDITIONING**

Other devices can provide reasonable comfort at a lower cost of installation and operation.

Attic fans which are generally installed in the ceiling of a hallway are considered by those in the ventilation trade to be first choice for cooling homes not having air conditioning. These fans draw air through opened windows, draw the air through the home, providing air circulation, and finally exhaust the hotter rising air into the attic. Even hotter air, already in the attic, is displaced by the air from within the home, thereby reducing attic temperatures. Cooler attic temperatures reduce the ceiling temperature slightly, which further increases comfort in the home.

The Home Ventilating Institute recommends an air exchange every 2½ minutes. Using these guidelines, a fan should be sized to move the volume of air in the home in a period of 2½ minutes. Since fans are sized by the air moved per minute, the number of cubic feet of air in the home (floor area x ceiling height) should be divided by 2½ to determine the fan size needed.

Attic fans require one-fourth to one-fifth the energy required by central air conditioning, assuming 88 F. outside temperature and the air conditioner operating 10 hours per day.

The area of the home to receive the greatest air movement can be determined by the openings provided for air entrance into the home. If the bedrooms are to be cooled, for example, open the windows in the bedrooms and close other windows.

Window fans can also provide comfort if installed and used properly. To be effective, the window fan should be installed to make a seal in the window so air can move through the area where the blade operates and not around the fan housing (short cycling).

To be effective, windows should be opened to allow

air movement through the house, not through an opening near the fan and then out at the fan.

Floor fans provide air movement within a room and can be placed in a window to bring in cool night air. When using fans of any type, short cycling should be prevented.

Incorporating some good sense can also make homes more comfortable. Use window shades or curtains to block incoming sun. Awnings or roof overhang can also block sun's rays. Reflective film which adheres to glass can repel up to 75 percent of the sun's heat in summer.

Reflective film also acts as an insulator in winter. Some films are opaque when viewed from the outside (burglars can't see inside).

### **HOW DOES AIR MOVEMENT HELP?**

Air movement does more than replace hot air with cooler air. Air moving over the skin causes moisture on the skin to evaporate, giving a cooling effect. To get an idea of the effectiveness of evaporative cooling, place a little rubbing alcohol on the top side of your hand and then blow air over your hand. The cooling effect is very noticeable. Air containing high humidity will not feel as comfortable as dry air because of the evaporative cooling effect. For this reason fans seem to have reduced effectiveness in warm, humid weather.

### **DOES AIR MOVEMENT REDUCE MILDEW?**

Mildew will grow where the conditions are favorable! A warm, humid environment is most desirable for mildew. It can grow within the home or basement, up in the attic or under crawl spaces.

Ventilation reduces temperature and carries away moisture. Moisture can also be removed in the home with dehumidifiers and air conditioning.

Moisture can be controlled in crawl spaces using foundation vents. In addition, a polyethylene ground cover can be added to prevent moisture rising from the ground. The polyethylene should be lapped four to six inches at the edges and be turned up four to six inches at foundation walls. With a correctly installed ground cover, at least one square foot of vent should be provided for every 1,500 square feet of crawl space, with a minimum of two vents



there during cold weather, we could reduce annual heating costs by about 20 percent. We may think lowering our thermostats that much would be uncomfortable, but it is just a matter of getting used to living in a slightly cooler home. Opening outside doors as infrequently as possible and repairing cracks in windows and outside walls are two other ways to cut heating and cooling costs.

Hot water heaters use more energy than the air conditioners, refrigerators, color televisions and freezers combined. Showers should be taken instead of baths because showers use only half as much hot water as baths. Using cold water as often as possible in washing clothes and washing dishes, and not leaving the hot water running while shaving are other ways to save energy. Dishwashers should be used when washing dishes because they use less energy than doing them by hand and running hot water to rinse them. Washers should be replaced on leaky faucets because a leaky hot water faucet wastes 2,500 gallons of water per year. Turning our water heaters down to 120 degrees, will reduce fuel bills nine percent.

The electric heat pump is the most efficient heating system on the market today. It can cut home heating costs by 50 percent and actually deliver more energy than it uses. The heat pump works by extracting the heat out of the cold air outside and pumping it inside; in the summer, this cycle is reversed. Attic vents are helpful because they save on air conditioning costs. In the summer, an attic vent can result in a 30 percent savings by cooling the attic and keeping that heat from entering the house. Household appliances that are 20 percent more efficient can save 500,000 barrels of oil a day. An energy efficient product that many people already have but may have forgotten about is the manual push lawnmower. It does not use any gasoline or oil, but it still does a good job.

Industry uses more than 41 percent of the energy consumed in the United States. That is equivalent to about 10 million barrels of oil annually; out of that, five million barrels are lost each year through waste heat, insufficient insulation, bad heating systems, and failure to use energy saving programs. Many of the energy saving tips we use in our houses can be used to save energy in industries. Better insulation, more economical lighting systems, and more efficient heating systems are ways industries can cut their use of energy. They should also be encouraged to invest in solar power because the solar energy striking an average building is six to ten times the amount of energy needed to heat the building. Industries might also be encouraged to organize "van pools" to commute their workers. If the average load per car is increased by one person, 700,000 barrels of oil daily could be saved; so, think what a van load would save.

The automobile has become an almost necessity in our lives, and because it uses gasoline and oil, it too must be upgraded to be more economical. The automobile consumes 4.8 million barrels of oil yearly; that's about 14 percent of all energy consumed, and it wastes 4.2 million barrels of oil yearly. Buying cars that get better gas mileage and driving at the 55 mile per hour speed limit are two ways to save energy. By driving 55 miles per hour rather than 70, motorists can cut their gasoline use by 21 percent. Another way to cut the waste of energy in automobiles is to use synthetic oil instead of petroleum oil. Amsoil is a synthetic oil with a non-petroleum base called ester. Amsoil can help motorists get up to 20 percent better gas mileage and it protects the engine from excessive wear.

While conserving the energy we have will temporarily solve our problem, new sources of energy must be developed. There are two paths that we can take to decide our energy future. The "soft" path includes the development of solar energy, geothermal energy, and energy from the wind. These sources of energy are in abundance; they do not pollute, and they will always be around. The "hard" path

includes the development of nuclear energy and coal. These sources of energy rely on availability of certain natural materials.

Solar heating and cooling head the list of "soft" technologies now available. It is a free energy source, very large and potentially unlimited, but harnessing solar energy presents some problems. To increase its use for man's benefit is going to be very expensive. We also are lacking in technology to find better ways to use it efficiently. The most widely used system for gathering the sun's energy is a rooftop collector, which consists of a flat plate to absorb heat from the sun's rays. The energy absorbed by the plate is transferred to air or to liquid, usually water, and then it is circulated to a location where it is stored or used. This procedure, if improved and amplified, could supply as much as 20 percent of America's energy needs by the year 2000.

Wind energy is another "soft" technology. It is clean, efficient, and inexhaustible, and declining fossil fuel supplies have caused scientists to take a fresh look at wind and air currents as an energy source. Many scientists say windmills spread across the Great Plains could furnish 50 percent of the electrical power for the whole nation.

Geothermal energy is extracted from the earth's natural heat. Certain geological conditions have formed unusual "pockets" of pressure and high temperatures. When underground water comes in contact with these pockets, hot water and steam are produced. To use geothermal energy, generators have been developed to be run by the steam that is produced in these pockets. One generating plant is located at the Geysers in northern California, and it produces approximately half of the energy used by San Francisco. The United States is known to have many of these huge pockets of steam, but their size and exact location have not been calculated yet.

Nuclear energy and coal are the two main sources of energy on the "hard" path to our energy future. Nuclear energy is generated by a process called fission, a process by which the nucleus of an atomically heavy material, such as uranium, is hit by a neutron; it splits, releasing additional neutrons and energy in heat form. This heat produces steam to turn turbines to generate electricity. Another way to produce nuclear energy is through a process called fusion. Fusion is fusing two lighter elements together by extreme heat and pressure to form a new, heavier element, producing a great amount of heat. This process is not yet successfully developed because the heat produced exceeds 100 million degrees F, and no material can withstand that much heat, but research continues because of the attractive assets nuclear fusion offers.

Coal technology is now experiencing a virtual revolution because of new ways to burn coal more efficiently and cleanly. One of those ways is a system using fluidized beds. Fluidized beds are simple devices that add fuel a little at a time to a larger mass of small, inert, red hot particles kept suspended as an agitated fluid by a stream of air continuously blown up through it from below. In one system currently available, a fluidized-bed can heat as many houses as a one billion dollar coal gasification plant, but would only use two-fifths as much coal, cost a half to two-thirds as much to build, and burn more cleanly than a normal power station with the best modern scrubbers. With such efficient ways of using coal, and the availability of coal for what experts say is at least eight hundred more years, it is easy to see why coal should be looked at as a possible long term energy supply.

Now, conservation is the best way to slow down the depletion of our fossil fuels. It is needed to buy the time necessary to develop new sources of energy. These new resources will hopefully provide us with unlimited energy and will ultimately solve the energy crisis.

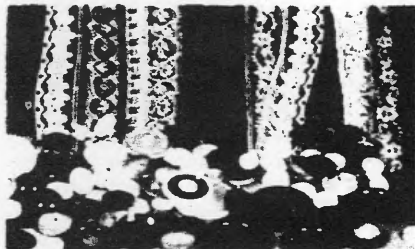


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elaborate displays, and after the manned moon landings, he added a rocket ship to his program. The rocket ship, outfitted with a suitable array of fireworks, actually appears to lift off as it rises through the air on a series of ropes and pulleys.

"The crowds like Ol' Smokey more than just about any of the other displays, I think," Baker says. Ol' Smokey is a replica of a steam locomotive, complete with cow-catcher, rolling wheels and smoke-stack.

Clark launches 10- and 12-inch aerial bombs from half-buried mortar tubes to capture and hold the crowd's attention with deafening roars, and intersperses Roman candles, fire-crackers, whistles and jumping jacks throughout the program. The Liberty Bell, American Eagle, devil's wheel, a smiling face and several other displays round out the spectacular.

Clark builds all the displays at his rural home southwest of Lovington, and Mrs. Clark puts on a potluck meal for all those who help with the displays. When the food is gone, everybody helps load the assemblies on pickup trucks for the drive to the Lovington High School for final assembly.

For safety reasons, Clark does all the firing himself. "Things get a little hectic during the firing and I wouldn't want anyone to get hurt," he says.

Lovington did not have a fireworks program before the Clarks got into the act. Former Lovington Mayor Wendell Dahm and area minister Larry Beebe cooked up the idea of a Fourth of July celebration with the support of other community leaders and various civic groups, and Clark was "drafted" to develop the actual fireworks exhibition.

He relishes his role as pyrotechnist, Clark says, but the real joy comes from seeing his family and friends working together on a community project and from the happiness the displays bring to children and adults who view the traditional Lovington celebration of America's independence.

Clark devotes his time throughout the year to other community affairs too, as a member of the Lovington School Board and Lovington Ambulance Service Board.

## Cost of increasing regulation

(Continued from page 7)

before the electric cooperative conference.

"They are not swayed by those who turned out for the rally," the aide said, adding that many of those at the rally came out to see the celebrities. He went on to note that Congressmen have witnessed 20 years of demonstrations and such activities do not have much influence in Washington.

During the session with Senator Stevenson's assistants, Walter R. Smith, President of Soyland Power Cooperative of Decatur, urged Congress and others in leadership positions in the federal government to develop higher public profiles on

matters relating to energy development, including nuclear, as he stressed the impact of media coverage in other parts of the country among persons who are not aware that elected officials put much more stock in the opinions of constituents than that of the demonstrators.

As they talked with Congressmen, the Illinoisans noted that both the Rural Electrification Administration insured and guaranteed loan programs have no impact on the federal budget and that recent studies by the Office of Management and Budget and the General Accounting Office supported the cooperatives' position.

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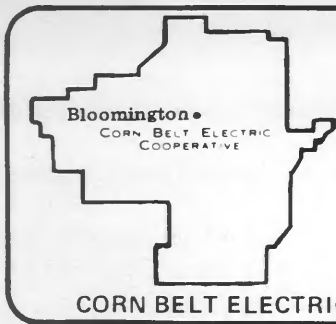
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# Corn Belt Electric News

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

309-662-5330

BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

## Brad Lewis is essay contest winner

Brad Lewis, a junior at Argenta-Oreana High School, was selected the Youth to Washington essay winner in ceremonies Monday, April 16, at Bob Johnson's restaurant.

Loretta Long, of Mackinaw, was selected runner-up. She is a sophomore at Deer Creek-Mackinaw High School and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Long. Loretta will attend the Washington, D.C., conference if Brad Lewis is unable to go.

The contest is sponsored by your cooperative, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. It pro-

motes energy awareness among our future leaders by involving them in energy research and discussions with government leaders.

Sophomore and junior students from high schools throughout the Corn Belt service area submitted 1,500 word essays on the subject "Our Energy Future—How Do We Get There?" Ten finalists were selected and judged by an independent panel of judges. Finalists then presented oral summaries of their essays at a dinner meeting where Brad Lewis was selected the winner. Brad is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Shelby Lewis of Oreana.



*Happy essay winner, Brad Lewis, with his parents Shelby and Audrey Lewis.*



*Contestants who attended the banquet and presented summary of their essays are from left to right—Jim Sheradon, Scott Golden, Loretta Long, Rodney Westerman, Brad Lewis, Charles Martin, Jr., and Kimberly King.*



*Runner-up contestant, Loretta Long, with parents George and Mary Long.*

## The winning essay

We know you will enjoy reading the winning essay written by Brad Lewis on a very timely subject.

### OUR ENERGY FUTURE — HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Our country is in the midst of an energy crisis, and it must be dealt with immediately. The best way to confront this problem is through the conservation of present energy in order to buy time so new sources can be developed. We can conserve in the home, automobile, and industry, and new sources of energy like solar, nuclear, wind, geothermal, and coal can be developed.

In the home, there are many things we can do to better use our energy. If all homes were properly insulated, caulked and weatherstripped, over a million barrels of oil would be saved each day. Energy saving steps, such as these, will reduce energy use in existing homes by 25 to 50 percent, and for every five homes that are properly insulated, enough gas is saved to heat a sixth home. Lowering the thermostat from 72 degrees to 68 degrees and leaving it

side of the house, if possible. If your air conditioner is in direct sunlight, cover it with an awning, but make sure it does not trap hot air in the window area.

A room air conditioner of adequate capacity can serve a zone much larger than a single room, providing construction of the building is such as to permit the free circulation of air in the area.

If you have a room air conditioner, be sure that the air exchange control, which is a means of bringing in outside air to replace stale air, is closed during the day. When it is open on hot days, this outside air, which is inefficient to cool, is being introduced into the system.

Set your thermostat at 78 degrees, a reasonably comfortable and energy efficient indoor temperature. The higher the setting and the less difference between indoor and outdoor temperature, the less outdoor hot air will flow into the building.

Don't set your thermostat at a lower setting than

normal when you turn your air conditioner on. It will NOT cool faster. It WILL cool to a lower temperature than you need and use more energy.

Set your fan speed on high except in very humid weather. When it's humid, set the fan speed at low. You'll get less cooling but more moisture will be removed from the air conditioner. Furniture, draperies, and other objects will block the flow of cool air.

Never operate a window or attic fan in an air conditioned area. It will simply force the cooled air out of the room.

Keep all windows and doors closed when your air conditioner is operating.

Expect three benefits from a service call for your air conditioner: cleaning the filters, checking the refrigerant in the system, and cleaning the condenser.

Confine your living space to fewer rooms, and close off the rooms you are not using.

## Cooling without air conditioning

It is possible to maintain a comfortable home during summer without relying on a mechanical cooling system. As a matter of fact, many families do. Proper insulation and house design are as beneficial to cooling in summer as they are to heating in winter.

Take advantage of the daily temperature cycle—take night's cool air into your home and close up in the morning. Lowest air temperatures usually occur from midnight to just before dawn.

A new home can be orientated to take advantage of solar and climatic conditions. Rooms can be orientated accordingly—bedrooms, for example, might be located facing east so they will not receive the rays of the late afternoon sun.

When ventilating, draw in the air from the coolest

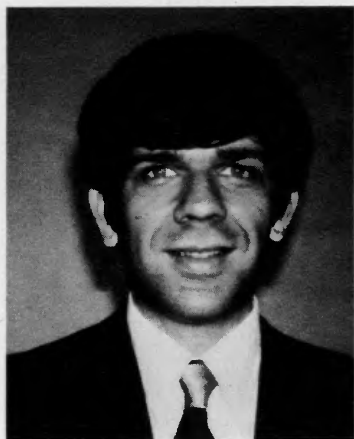
side of the house, expel warm air from the upper parts of the house, either into the attic or through windows near their top. A ventilator fan can be effectively installed into the upper ceiling to pull air through and push it into the attic. Also, consider installing an attic fan to exhaust heat which often reaches 140 degrees to 160 degrees, thus preventing the heat from radiating area to your living.

Take advantage of all possible ways of reducing solar heat gain. Remember to close the blinds and draperies of windows exposed to direct sunlight. Awnings can be a more permanent method.

Plant deciduous trees on the sunny sides of the home to aid in cooling.

On cooler days and during cooler hours, open the window—a cool breeze is very enjoyable.

## Ronald Stack replaces Dave Dunnell



Ronald Stack was recently promoted to Public Affairs Director/Staff Assistant at Corn Belt Electric Cooperative, beginning July 2, 1979. He replaces David Dunnell, who held the job for two years and accepted a similar position at Union REA, Inc. in Brighton, Colorado.

JULY 1979

In his new position, Stack will be working in all areas of public affairs, dealing with both the member-consumers of Corn Belt and other agencies, organizations, and electric officials whose actions affect or have an impact on Corn Belt and its members. He will also serve as staff assistant to Manager G. V. Beer, working on special projects.

Many of you are already familiar with Mr. Stack as he has worked the past eight years in the Engineering Department as an Engineering Clerk and Engineering E.D.P. Technician.

Mr. Stack is 33 years old, married, and has two children. He and his family have lived in the Bloomington-Normal area for eleven years and currently reside at 931 W. MacArthur in Bloomington.

Mr. Stack has attended Wichita State University, Loyola University, and Illinois State University majoring in Business Administration.

We wish Ron the best of luck in his new position.

At right, the focus is on the best in Illinois agriculture as several breeds of cattle are judged at the fair. Other animals, such as poultry, swine, mules and sheep, are judged as well during the largest agricultural exposition of its kind in the U.S. At lower left is the arch to the popular midway, near the main gate. At lower right, while most of the fairgoers walk, others take to the air to get across the fairgrounds and see the sights. The area is filled with entertainment, exhibitions, special tents and contests that all Illinoisans can enjoy.



## State Fair offers something for all Ill

The Illinois State Fair is set for August 9-19, and all the old standby features are still planned; some new attractions are in the works, too.

Illinois Talent on Parade, a daily variety show, will present the best talent from throughout the state. It will feature Illinoisans of all ages in every kind of act, and will be held

in the Illinois Building Theater.

Racing buffs will be able to "Get the Feel of the Wheel," as cars of every description, displays and well-known drivers fill this huge exhibition. Fans will be able to talk to drivers and crew members, and climb into a car to catch the flavor of the track.

A Water Follies show is new this year, too, and the world's largest

pools and stage are used to present the show. Champion stunt divers, water ballet scenes and lavish stage production numbers will make this two-hour show an attraction for many.

For alternative energy enthusiasts, there will be a Solar Hot Water Design Competition. The Institute of Natural Resources and the Illinois Office of Education have joined forces to





At the right, Len Koch of Illinois Power Company was one of the speakers during the two-day session. Below, power use and member services representatives gather pamphlets and brochures on energy conservation and efficiency available during the meeting.



Member Services Director of Jackson Purchase Electric Cooperative, Paducah, and Krista Kennedy of Western Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative and a Residential Energy Advisor for the Tennessee Valley Authority. Norris focused on his cooperative's energy conservation and management plan and the various forms and worksheets used to complete home energy audits. Kennedy outlined how TVA personnel work with consumers for on-site inspections and audits.

Bill Simpson of Country Mutual Insurance Company, Bloomington, used a slide presentation to illustrate wiring problems facing both farmers and insurers. He showed several instances of inadequately wired hog confinement buildings, many of which had a high potential for fire loss unless changes were made.



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# Corn Belt Electric News

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

309-662-5330

BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

## Saving money on your air conditioning

A simple explanation will clarify the operation of air conditioners.

Liquids absorb heat as they vaporize to gas and lose it again when they return to liquid state. If the heat is absorbed inside a house and lost outside, the house is cooled. Refrigerants do this very efficiently by vaporizing (boiling) at low temperatures.

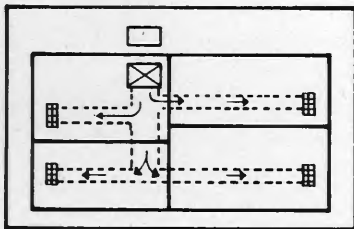
In a house, warm air from the house is passed over coils by a fan. In absorbing heat from this air, the refrigerant becomes gas. A compression "squeezes" the warm gas, concentrating its heat, and it enters condenser coils. Another fan blows outside air over these coils and cools the gas back into liquid. The cycle then continues.

As the inside air is cooled, it must give up moisture—it is dehumidified.

When you buy a cooling system, compare the Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER) of various brands. EER indicates the number of cooling BTU's delivered by a cooling system for each watt of electrical input. The higher the EER, the less energy required for the same amount of cooling. The EER will be a number ranging from 4.7 to 12.2. You can figure the EER of a unit you already have by dividing its capacity in BTU's by its wattage rating. An 18,000 BTU air conditioner rated at 3,000 watts would have an EER of 6, which is only average. If you purchase the unit with the higher EER, even though it costs more initially, you will probably save more in the long run. Buy the smallest system with the smallest capacity that will do the job.

Buy a unit with a capacity which fits your needs. An over-sized unit not only costs more, but will operate inefficiently. If you can't match your cooling needs to a unit's capacity, go with a slightly smaller unit.

### Central System



A duct system distributes cool air to every room from a central unit.

More effective than window or thru-the-wall unit  
Dehumidification

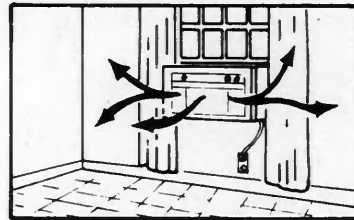
Air filtered

Heating system can be added, using existing duct work.

Increases value of home

Consider central air conditioning if you consistently operate a number of room units. Installing central air conditioning requires a dependable contractor. A solid reputation is essential.

### Window Unit



May be placed in any window large enough for the unit and where there is or can be adequate wiring. Unit should be shielded from direct sunlight.

Inexpensively installed in home

Dehumidification

Air filtered

### Through-The-Wall Unit



Should be placed as high above the floor as practical on outside wall that is shielded from direct sunlight.

Dehumidification

Air filtered

May be installed in existing home.

### Operating Units Efficiently

Turn off your window air conditioners when you leave a room for several hours. You'll use less energy cooling the room down later than if you had left the unit running.

Place room air conditioning units on the cool (north)

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

- B. Use bulk milk tank compressor heat (in winter) for milk house heating. Insulate hot water lines. Reduce milk house and milking room temperature to 38 degrees F when not occupied. Limit the use of hot water as much as possible.
- C. Use natural ventilation where possible. Control ventilating fans, heating and cooling equipment with thermostats to limit operations.

**Don't Ignore Machine Maintenance:**

Machinery that is maintained and used in the correct way can save fuel and will also do a better job.

- A. Read (and understand) the operator's manuals for your machine.
- B. Double check machinery adjustments.
- C. Check air filters.
- D. Keep all engines tuned up.
- E. Keep cutting edges sharp.
- F. Keep moving parts lubricated.
- G. Don't overfuel an engine.

**Fuel Storage:**

Evaporation losses as high as 9.6 gallons per month have been reported for dark-colored, 300-gallon gasoline tanks

stored above ground. By painting the tank white and locating it in the shade, losses can be reduced to 2.4 gallons per month. A pressure relief valve on the white shaded tank can reduce the losses to about 1.3 gallons per month. Storage in an underground tank will reduce losses still further.

- A. Don't store gasoline on the farm more than six months.
- B. When storing gasoline above ground, paint the tank white, place it in the shade and use a pressure relief valve.
- C. Better yet, bury the tank.

**Plan Field Operations to Reduce Fuel Consumption:**

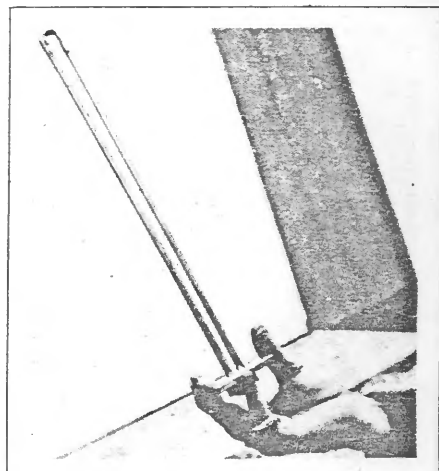
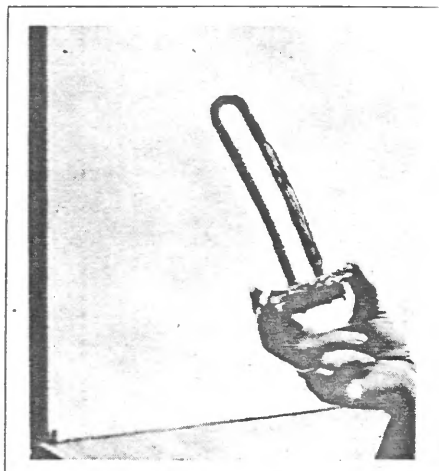
- A. Use a smaller tractor for light loads or throttle back on light loads if a large tractor is used.
- B. Don't let tractor engine idle for long periods of time — shut it off. A medium size tractor uses ¼ to ½ gallon per hour when idling.
- C. Plan machine movements from farmstead to field and between fields for minimum road time.
- D. Make wide, level turnrows to reduce time lost in turning.
- E. Plan field layout for long rows.

## Is your water heater efficient?

Do you have an ample supply of hot water? Does it meet the everyday needs of your household? Or is it exhausted before you finish your shower . . . begins to cool down when more than a few gallons are used doing the household chores?

**Mineral Deposits**

If this be the case at your house then your electric water heater apparently is not operating efficiently and the probable cause lies in the water heater elements. These two photos show what a good and a bad water heater element looks like. The right one is nice and clean and free of all mineral deposits. This element will transfer heat very efficiently to the water. The other is a different story. You can readily see that the element shown at left is completely coated



with mineral deposits and other impurities found in hard water. This coating acts as an insulator, making heat transfer extremely difficult. This coated element seldom turned off, the quantity of water desired was never hot enough, and the thermostat controlling the element was constantly calling for more heat.

Results? An inefficient element using excessive electricity, a shortage of hot water, a higher electric bill and dissatisfaction.

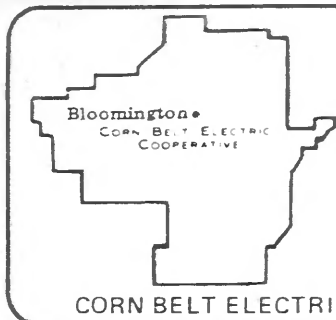
If you live in an area that has predominately hard water, and you know this by experience from scale build-up on your cooking utensils, and you have this type of heating element in your water heater (most people do), then you should make periodic checks and remove this build-up scale.

To do this your hot water heater must be turned off, drained and the element removed and cleaned. Care must be taken in such an operation to keep from damaging the element when removing from the water heater and when removing the scale. Sometimes a replacement may be necessary.

**Sludge Accumulation**

Another water heating problem is the accumulation of sludge in the bottom of the tank. This, also, should be cleaned out from time to time. All you need to do is open the drain valve on the bottom of the tank and drain the sludge off until the water runs clear. (This will not remove the lime build-up from the bottom of the tank; only the sludge. The lime build-up should be scraped from the tank while the element is removed.)





# Corn Belt Electric News

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

309-662-5330

BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

## Agriculture conservation

# Reducing farm energy costs

Energy costs are increasing and present trends indicate the cost of energy on the farm will become an increasingly important factor in efficient food production.

Diesel, gasoline, LP gas and electricity are necessary inputs in farming. Alternate energy sources are often impractical or unavailable. However, energy use can often be reduced without cutting production. Even with increases in energy costs, reducing energy inputs is seldom profitable if this results in lower production.

Tillage and grain drying require large inputs of energy. Tillage is basic to farming. It dictates tractor size and consumes more total fuel in the state than all other on-farm crop production practices combined. Drying grain is a common practice and farmers drying grain often use more fuel on drying than they do in tilling, planting and harvesting.

### Tillage:

- A. Keep all tillage tools sharp and correctly adjusted.
- B. Plow when soil moisture level is favorable.
- C. Till only as deep as necessary to maintain high yields.
- D. Use weight to keep tractor tire slippage to 15 percent.
- E. Reduce tillage. Eliminate any tillage operation that does not increase or maintain yields. Consider no-tillage.
- F. Select tools that consume less fuel if final yields are similar. For example, use a chisel rather than a mold-board plow.

### Planting and Harvesting:

- A. Plan rapid box filling and combine hopper unloading for minimum engine idling time or turn off engine during these operations.
- B. Complete harvest before lodged crops, cause slow, fuel-consuming harvests.

### Harvesting and Feeding Hay:

- A. Manage hay hauling to reduce long engine idling periods and part load trips.
- B. Store hay near feeding area if feasible.
- C. Plan feeding program to avoid tractor trips through

muddy areas, long trips with small loads and long engine idling periods.

### When Harvesting Silage:

- A. Keep knives and shear bar sharp. Have proper shear bar-to-knife clearance.
- B. Don't chop too fine. When you double the length or cut, you reduce power requirement by a third. Chop just fine enough so the silage packs tightly.
- C. Don't use a recutter screen. A screen can increase fuel by 20 percent.

### Corn Drying and Storage:

Fuel requirement per bushel for drying corn from 25 percent to 15½ percent moisture is greater than the fuel required by all the field operations necessary to produce that bushel of corn. For this reason, when thinking about saving fuel, look at the drying operations. There are alternatives to present procedures.

- A. Delay harvesting until the corn is at 22 percent moisture to reduce the amount of water removed by drying. Keep in mind that when the moisture of unharvested corn drops below 18 percent, field losses skyrocket. Leaving 10 percent of the crop in the field is not saving energy.
- B. Use natural air for drying or add a small amount of heat.
- C. Use conventional drying methods to dry to 20 or 22 percent moisture and then finish drying with unheated air.
- D. Store as wet corn. Preserving acids can be used for storing in silos that are not air tight or for storing in piles.
- E. Harvest as ear corn if a corn picker is available and store in naturally ventilated cribs. However, remember that another operation (shelling) and losses to rodents, birds and insects tend to offset the savings in drying fuel.

### Electrical Energy:

- A. Insulate to prevent heat loss. Turn off lights, motors and heaters when not needed. Repair leaking faucets and water lines to reduce pump operation.

# POWER OUTAGE!

What to do for your family and home if the electricity goes off.



Electric service is one of the most dependable items you can buy. Rarely will you find anything else as reliable. But there are unusual times when the electricity goes off.

A power outage can last only a few minutes resulting in some minor inconvenience. Or it can last for days and become a critical problem.

Sometimes a power outage is caused by lightning striking the electric lines, trees falling across wires during a storm or cars ramming into utility poles. A more serious type of outage occurs when severe thunderstorms and tornadoes snap poles and tangle electric lines. But probably the worst of all outages is caused by ice. Usually the most widespread and the most difficult to repair, an ice storm outage leaves your home and family vulnerable to freezing cold temperatures.

Regardless of the type of outage experienced, consumers should be able to cope with the situation. Let's review some helpful information which can help make an electric power outage more bearable.

## ALWAYS HAVE ON HAND

1. Flashlight with fresh batteries
2. Matches
3. Candles
4. Portable radio with fresh batteries

## EXTENDED OUTAGE—SUMMER

1. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. If thawing begins, put wet or dry ice in if it is available.
2. A picnic cooler is handy to store ice and luncheon meats in. Should your refrigerator completely thaw out you can at least have sandwiches.
3. If necessary, cook in a fireplace, over a barbecue grill or on a camp stove. Use a grill or stove outdoors to avoid the danger of fire or toxic fumes.
4. Open windows and doors for ventilation to keep the house from becoming hot and stuffy.

## FIRST THINGS TO DO

1. Check to see if your neighbors' lights are off.
2. Check fuses or breakers in your switchbox panel.
3. If fuses or breakers are all right,

call your electric cooperative. Give your address, location number and tell how long the power has been off. This will help your electric cooperative's emergency work crews determine the extent of the outage and aid in speeding repair service.

If your electric cooperative's telephone number is busy, hang up and try again in a minute. The phone is not off the hook. Chances are your neighbors are trying to call the cooperative's office, too. Keep trying and your call will eventually be answered. The information you have is important to your cooperative's repair crews.

4. Turn off all electrical appliances that were on, especially air conditioners or electric heating systems. This will permit the power to be restored sooner, without being knocked out again by automatic limiting devices that protect your electric distribution system from damaging overloads.

5. Turn on your portable radio and listen for public service messages from your electric cooperative.

## EXTENDED OUTAGE—WINTER

1. Wrap up in your warmest clothes. Wear several layers of clothing rather than one or two bulky garments. Thermal underwear helps.
2. Keep the refrigerator and freezer closed. If the outage lasts until food starts to thaw, put the food outside in a shaded place. Be sure the temperature is cold enough to permit this. Be sure food is protected from birds, dogs, etc.
3. In extreme cold, fill all available containers with drinking water, then drain the pipes in your house to prevent their freezing and bursting.
4. Maintain an adequate supply of fuel for cooking on your fireplace, grill or camp stove.
5. Cook in the same manner as you would during a summer outage, but be mindful of dangerous fumes.
6. Keep canned goods with a long shelf life on hand to eat during the emergency outage. Soup, chili and stew, for example, are simple to prepare and provide warmth as well as nourishment.

7. In extreme cold temperatures, the entire family should group together in one room where all drafts have been sealed off. If a fireplace or wood burning heater is available in the home, make that room your headquarters for the duration of the outage.

8. Layers of blankets or quilts provide adequate warmth at bedtime, but warm, down-filled sleeping bags are best.

9. During periods of rest, the human body gives off 75 watts of heat. Use this heat by grouping two or three persons together under blankets inside zipped-together sleeping bags.

## POWER BACK ON

Once the electricity is on again, turn on the appliances that you had previously turned off if they are needed.

**CAUTION:** If you have a heat pump and it's winter, don't reset the thermostat to the "ON" position as soon as the power comes back on. Here's why:

The electric heat pump performs its job by circulating a refrigerant gas. When the power has been off for a while, the unit's gas cools and changes to liquid. This liquid has a tendency to collect in the unit's compressor. If the unit is forced into operation at this state, possible mechanical damage can result. To protect your heat pump and your pocketbook, follow this rule after a winter power outage.

If the power has been off from two to ten hours, wait one and one-half hours before turning your heat pump on. If the power has been off longer than ten hours, refer to owners manual before restarting. This time is necessary for the crankcase heaters to change all the liquid refrigerant back into a gas again. If your unit has an emergency heat switch, you can use it to have warmth during the waiting period. But don't forget to turn it off once the heat pump is operating normally again.

Resume normal living, making a note to restock the supplies that you'll need should another power outage occur.



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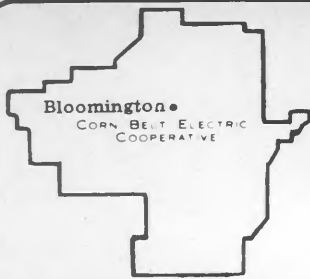
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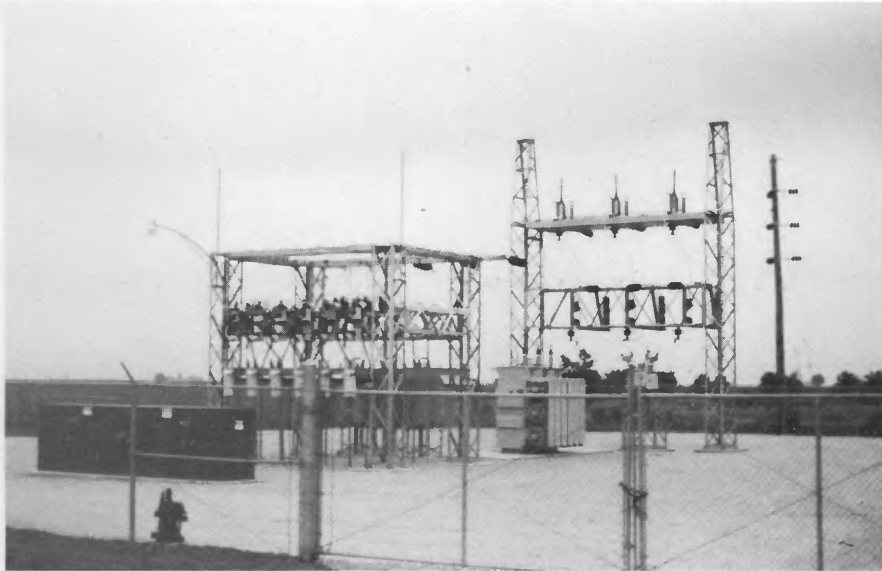


# Corn Belt Electric News

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

309-662-5330

BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS



*The Maroa substation, which serves 401 consumers in the southern part of our system, was totally rebuilt from a 1,500-KVA to 5,000-KVA. Increased demand for crop dryers was the primary reason for this upgrading. This will also benefit our total system with increased capacity for future growth. The new transformer was energized on July 27.*



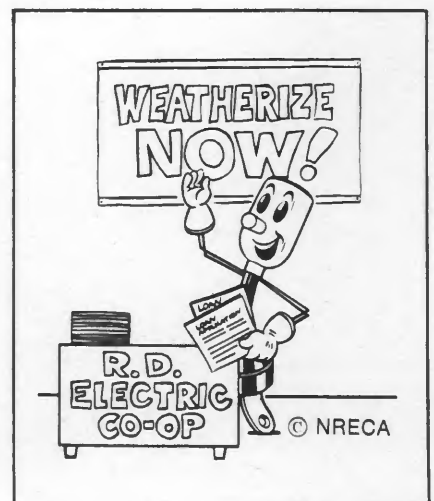
*The three-phase breaker installation protects the system from the breakers to the substation. When a fault occurs beyond the breaker it will isolate the line from the source. When the fault is cleared the breaker can be closed and service restored. All 515 breakers on Corn Belt's system have been recently tested and the coordination verified. This should improve your service and is part of our on-going preventative maintenance program.*

## *Please read your meter on the same day each month*

By reading your meter on the same day every month each bill will be for about 30 days, and the amount of the bill uniform depending on seasonal usage. When you read the meter on the 5th one month and not until the 15th the next, the amount of the bills will vary because one bill will be for 40 days electricity and the next bill for only 20 days. As you can see—reading your meter at the same time each month is important.

## *Corn Belt office hours are changed*

Office hours have been changed. Effective August 6, 1979, the cooperative's office hours became 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The office employees are willing to do this to help conserve gasoline. With a one-half hour lunch break employees will stay at the office for lunch instead of driving home as they have in the past.



# Checking Your Heating System

The summer is zooming right past us and it's time to get ready for winter. Although many heating systems are relatively maintenance free, others require a yearly routine of getting them ready for winter operation.

## Tax Credits

In order to encourage conservation, tax credits are allowed on weatherization measures on your home. A tax credit of 15 percent of the first \$2,000 for authorized weatherization measures may be taken on your federal income tax. Internal Revenue Form 5695 must be used to apply for the credit.

Insulating of air ducts is an authorized item for tax credit. Heat loss from ducts in unheated crawl spaces or attic spaces can account for 15 percent of the total heat loss.

## All Furnaces

Read the owner's manual as it will help in understanding your heating system. All belt-driven models should be checked for belt wear and proper belt tension. Oil the motor if it has cups or plugs over the bearings on each end of the motor. Caution! Do not over-oil. On belt models, oil the shaft bearings of the fan. Vacuum fan blades with care. The frames of furnaces and many other heating systems are grounded, therefore, a faulty vacuum cleaner could cause you to receive an electrical shock. On fossil fuel furnaces, check all flues and chimneys for leaves and bird nests. Check brick and rock chimneys for faulty mortar joints. Make sure ignitable items, such as clothing, cobwebs and paper are not too close to flues. Check all supply and return openings to be sure they are not blocked by furniture, drapes and other items.

## Gas Furnace

The air filter in the return air duct should be cleaned or changed. The pilot light nozzle should be turned off and cleaned by running a fine wire through the orifice of the nozzle. If you have trouble keeping the pilot on, the thermocouple may need changing.

To check the burners, turn up the thermostat and let the burners warm up for 5 minutes. Only blue flames should be showing. Adjust the combustion air intakes until the flame lifts off the burners — a sign of too much air — and then reduce air intake until the flame sets back down on the burners. You do not want yellow

showing in the flame.

## Electric Furnace

The air filter in the return air duct should be cleaned or changed. Electric furnaces are normally installed using a heating thermostat that brings on all the elements in the furnace whenever the thermostat calls for heat. This causes the furnace to give a blast of hot air and later the house cools until it is almost uncomfortable before the blast of hot air comes rushing out again. A two-stage heating thermostat or two-stage heating — one-stage cooling thermostat, if you have central cooling, and the addition of one or two outdoor thermostats would make the heating much more even, giving greater comfort. This arrangement should add life to the furnace elements and fan motor, since the system would not need to cycle as often.

## Oil Furnace

Drain off water that may have accumulated in the outdoor storage tank. This water comes from condensation due to changes in temperature of the weather. The fuel filter in the oil line to the furnace should be changed, and the air filter in the return air duct should be cleaned or changed. The nozzle on gun-type furnaces should be changed before each heating season.

To check the flame, turn on and observe. If black smoke continues to be given off the tip of the flame, the furnace is out of adjustment. The proper oil-to-air ratio will give a clean burning flame. Even with a proper burning flame some soot will be given off during start-up. A soot buildup inside the firebox will act as insulation and rob the system of its heating efficiency.

## Wood Or Coal Burning Equipment

These vary greatly in type and design, but a good inspection of grates, fireboxes and chimneys should turn up possible trouble spots. Acquaint yourself with the danger of creosote deposits, especially in the chimneys.

## Individual Room Heaters

Check for foreign matter such as lint, paper and hair. Vacuum and turn them on while you can open the doors and windows. Burning the dust off can be extremely irritating to the nose, eyes and throat. Lint should be blown out of thermostats. A hand hair dryer can be used for this, with the dryer on the cool setting.

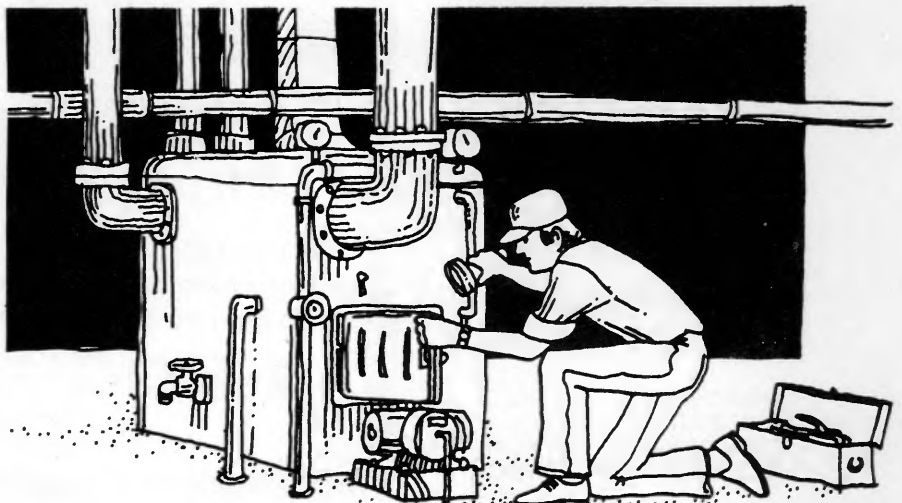
## Heat Pump

Heat pump owners should make a special effort to understand the various stages and modes of heat the system goes through varying temperatures. The outdoor thermostats are set according to the heat loss of your home at various outdoor temperatures. If you have added insulation since these were installed, it is probable that the setting should be changed. Cleaning the outdoor unit may be necessary several times a year, since the outdoor unit works year-round and leaves and grass accumulate in it.

A good serviceman should go over the entire system at least once a year.

## Word of Warning

If you attempt to service any heating system, be aware of the possible hazards. If you fail to get the proper flame color, or have doubts about your ability to service your equipment properly, call an experienced serviceman. Your cooperative will be able to advise you of qualified servicemen in your area.





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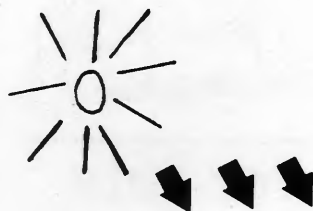
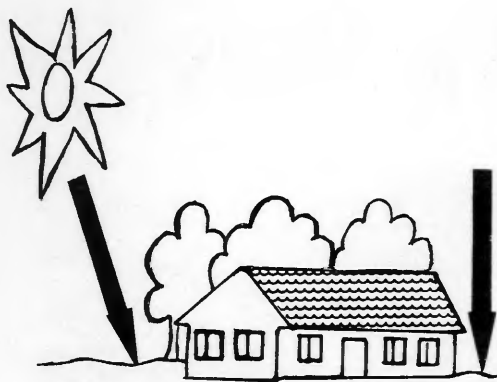
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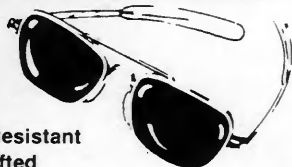
about 40 percent over the loss with single glass only. Insulating glass (double pane plus one-quarter-inch to one-half inch air space) plus storm windows may reduce the single glass loss rate by 60 percent.

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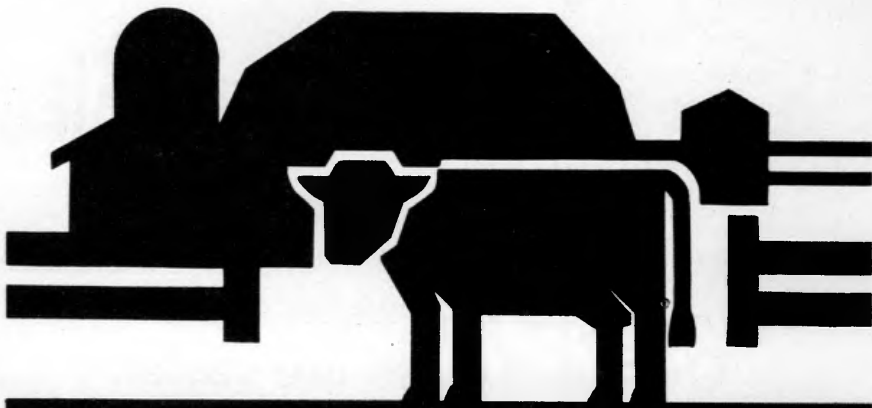


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# Corn Belt Electric News

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

309-662-5330

BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

## Why are the lights out?

### Outage causes are varied: ice, wind, rain, accident, equipment

How many times have you been inconvenienced by a power outage? Probably too many times as far as you are concerned! Your cooperative strives to minimize these outages if humanly possible. Sometimes outages occur because our men are working on your line or a feeder line or substation that provides you with power. Other times it could be ice, wind, rain, an accident, equipment failure, or an outage incurred by Illinois Power Company or Central Illinois Light Company, that causes your "lights to go out." This column is for unplanned outages of 20 or more consumers. Many of you may have been out of power and may not see your outage listed due to the fact that we will try to cover just the major outages. As

usual when we have work to be performed on the line for any great length of time, we shall continue our policy of sending out post cards and inform the news media, so that you may be better informed.

To try and help eliminate the statement "The lights went out," Corn Belt is establishing a pilot program whereby we will publish an "Outage Column" to provide you with the answer why you were out of power. This column for a year will provide the following information.

This should provide you with more information as to why you may have your power off. If we can ever provide you with more information regarding an outage, please don't hesitate to contact our Service Department.



## Winter rate

The upcoming November bill will be your final bill for 1979 on the summer rate. Starting in December, and for the next seven months, you will be billed on a lower "winter rate."

In converting from the summer to winter rate, it will be necessary for all meters to be read during the month of October. This insures you will not continue to be billed at the higher summer rate.

Please help us serve you. Send your meter reading in.

## August Corn Belt outages

Date	Time	Substation or Area	Members Involved	Reason
8/02/79	11:04 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.	West of Colfax	26	Construction
8/09/79	9:25 A.M. - 9:59 A.M.	West of Holder	28	Maintenance
8/10/79	1:39 P.M. - 1:50 A.M.	West of Kappa	23	Construction
8/10/79	5:50 P.M. - 7:05 P.M.	Wapella sub	475	Unknown
8/13/79	7:05 A.M. - 10:43 A.M.	Maroa sub	431	Birds caused transformer to burn out
8/15/79	7:40 A.M. - 8:10 A.M.	SW of LeRoy	209	Car hit pole
8/15/79	12:15 P.M. - 1:24 P.M.	SW of LeRoy	20	Change out pole
8/17/79	11:22 A.M. - 11:46 A.M.	East of Hartsburg	35	Change out pole
8/21/79	8:35 P.M. - 8:50 P.M.	Wapella sub	475	Illinois Power lost power to substation
9/22/79	3:44 P.M. - 4:10 P.M.	West of Bloomington	24	Unknown
8/22/79	9:39 P.M. - 10:36 P.M.	South of Bloomington	28	Lightning
8/23/79	10:14 P.M. - 12:48 A.M.	Near Oreana	67	Lightning
8/23/79	9:20 P.M. - 2:11 A.M.	North of Carlock	27	Lightning
8/23/79	1:26 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.	Holder Sub	665	Damaged regulator
8/24/79	2:20 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.	South of Tremont	52	Change out pole
8/27/79	7:30 A.M. - 8:43 A.M.	East of Lexington	72	Breaker tripped - unknown



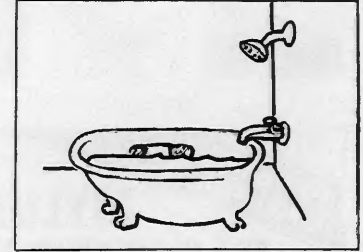
**Don't overheat water . . .** 5. Be careful that you are not overheating your water for your needs. In most cases, 140 degrees (60 degrees C) hot water is a good temperature for a normal house with a dishwasher. When the water heater services only the bath, the thermostat can be set lower. (110 degrees F (43 degrees C) is recommended.) For every 10 degrees F (6 degrees C) you raise the temperature above 140 degrees F (60 degrees C), your hot water costs will increase 3 percent.

**Try a shower . . .**

6. People normally use less hot water when showering than when bathing. The average shower requires about 10 gallons (38 liters) of water whereas the average bath requires about twice that much. However, if you like to linger, forget the shower!

**Test water consumption . . .**

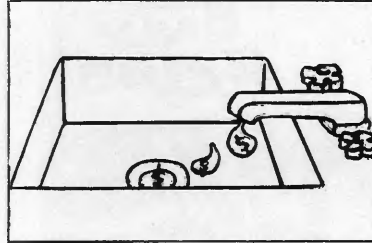
7. **MAKE A SIMPLE TEST—**  
The next time you take a bath, use a piece of adhesive tape and mark the height of the water in the tub. The next time you bathe, take a shower. Put the stopper in the tub and compare the water height when you finish.



**Use cold and warm cycles . . .**

8. Use cold and warm water cycles as much as possible when using your washing machine and dishwasher. Gas or electric bills could be lowered by as much as four percent by switching entirely to cold cycles.

**Do away with drips . . .**



9. A dripping faucet is a nuisance, wastes water, wastes energy, wastes money, overworks the water heater, can erode valve seats, and often causes unsightly sink stains. A leaking faucet which leaks 90 drops a minute adds up to about 1000 gallons (3785 liters) of water per year. Usually this can be corrected by simply replacing a washer.

**Think . . .**

10. Letting the water run while shaving or when washing dishes by hand is a needless waste. Avoid this by using sink stoppers and dishpans.

**Give appliances a vacation . . .**

11. Turn down or turn off water heaters while away from home for extended periods. If you turn off the gas pilot light, do so only according to manufacturer's instructions.

**Buy efficient water heater . . .**

12. When purchasing a new water heater, select a unit with high heating efficiency and with thick tank insulation.

**Install a tempering tank . . .**

13. Where possible, install a large-capacity uninsulated tempering tank in the supply line to the water heater. A tempering tank raises the temperature of incoming water to building temperature prior to its entering the water heater. The higher the temperature of the water supplied to the heater, the less will be the energy needed to raise it to the desired tap temperature.

## September Corn Belt Outages

Date	Time	Substation or Area	Members Involved	Reason
9/6/79	10:17 A.M. — 11:50 A.M.	East of Tremont	47	Construction
9/6/79	3:16 P.M. — 5:45 P.M.	NE of Armington	88	Tree broke line
9/11/79	9:34 A.M. — 9:42 A.M.	Tremont-Mackinaw area	104	Construction
9/11/79	9:34 A.M. — 11:44 A.M.	Tremont-Mackinaw area	199	Construction
9/11/79	11:35 A.M. — 11:44 A.M.	Tremont-Mackinaw area	104	Construction
9/17/79	1:40 P.M. — 1:46 P.M.	West of Lexington	57	Construction
9/17/79	1:01 P.M. — 2:06 P.M.	NE of LeRoy	66	Construction
9/18/79	1:25 P.M. — 2:07 P.M.	North Colfax	24	Pole Change
9/26/79	10:41 A.M. — 10:47 A.M.	SE of Lexington	21	Pole Change
9/26/79	2:00 P.M. — 2:49 P.M.	Tremont-Mackinaw area	47	Construction
9/28/79	7:44 A.M. — 9:03 A.M.	SE of Minier	47	Bad arrester
9/28/79	5:03 P.M. — 6:29 P.M.	East of Lexington	179	Car broke pole



McDonald

Former REA official

## McDonald selected new IVEC manager

Thomas R. McDonald, interim general manager of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative since August 6, has been named general manager of the Princeton-based electric distribution cooperative.

McDonald replaces M. M. Jontz of Princeton, who retired effective August 10, after 21 years service as manager of Illinois Valley. Prior to his appointment in 1958, the Princeton native was general foreman for the cooperative.

McDonald retired on October 6, 1978, after a 28-year career with the Rural Electrification Administration. At the time of his retirement, he was the assistant administrator for the electric program, assisting the REA administrator in conducting the rural electric loan program on a national basis.

A native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, McDonald graduated from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1949 with a degree in electrical engineering. In 1955 he received a law degree from Blackstone College of Law in Chicago. He is a registered professional engineer. He joined the REA staff as an engineering trainee in January 1950, and served in various capacities throughout the nation, including 10 years in field positions. He was an assistant power supply officer for six years and in 1970 was appointed chief of the Engineering Branch, North Central Area—Electric. The North Central Area includes Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio and Iowa.

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative provides electric service to more than 5,500 member-owners residing in Knox, Bureau, Putnam, Stark, LaSalle, Marshall and Kendall counties.

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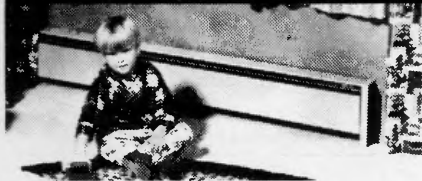
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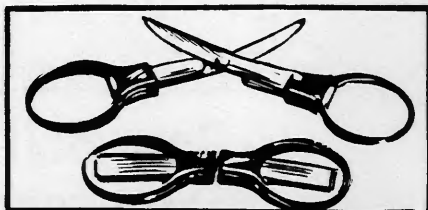


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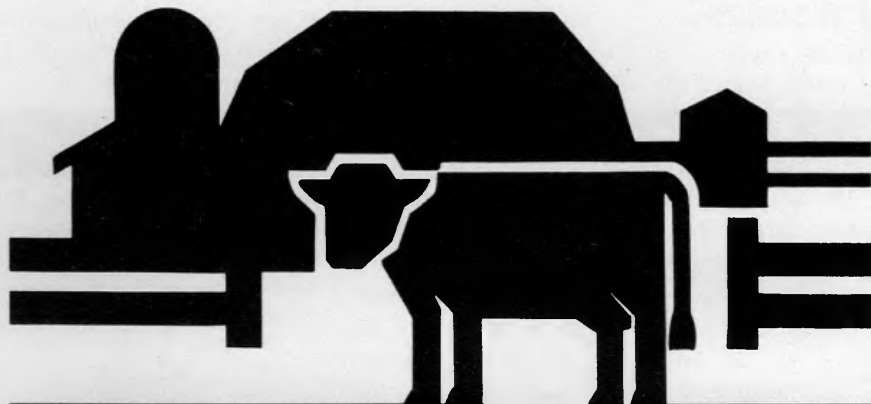
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# Corn Belt Electric News

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

309-662-5330

BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

## Corn Belt to provide meter reading service

Your Board of Directors has approved the implementation of an area meter reading program. This means that beginning in January 1980 you will no longer be required to read your own meter. Meters will be read each month by a paid meter reader living in your area. The meter readers must be cooperative members and will be working only three days each month.

You should have already received a letter explaining the program in full, along with an application blank to apply for one of the 40 meter reading positions if interested.

The December issue of the *Illinois Rural Electric News* will include a comprehensive outline of the program, explaining why and how the program will be initiated.

Please take time to read the December issue as your cooperation is important to the success of this program.

## Winter bill worries?

Any member who anticipates having problems paying their winter electric bills should please contact our office before the bill becomes due.

## Notice of holidays

Corn Belt Electric Cooperative holiday schedule for November is as follows:

Our office will be closed Thursday, November 22, for Thanksgiving and Friday, November 23. In case of outages, please contact our office as a recorded message will inform you of the proper person to contact.

Happy Thanksgiving to all our members and employees!

## Sears payments

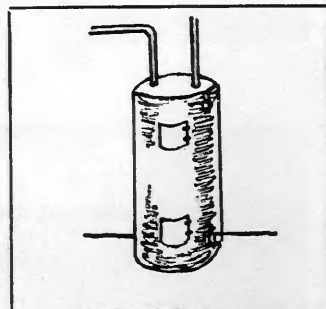
We recently received notification from Sears that they will no longer accept utility bill payments. We realize many of our members utilized this service, and we are sorry it can no longer be continued.

## Energy for heating water

The hot water heater is the second largest consumer of energy in the home. The hot water heater therefore gives us the second greatest opportunity to conserve energy at home.

### *Oversizing is wasteful . . .*

1. The consumption of hot water is linked to the number of people in the family, their ages, and individual habits. Oversizing wastes energy since you are maintaining a supply of unnecessary hot water. For the average 4 member household a forty gallon oil or gas fueled hot water tank is recommended. For an electrical hot water heating system, an eighty gallon low power heater is recommended.



### *Locate heater near point of use . . .*

2. Locating your water heater close to points where it is needed is a fundamental requirement for minimizing water heater energy requirements. Long pipe runs result in using cold water and waiting for hot water. The energy in the hot water remaining in the pipe is lost through dissipation. Some contractors have recognized this problem and are providing several small water heaters in larger houses, each placed near a location needing hot water.

### *Use small pipes . . .*

3. Use the smallest practical diameter for hot water supply pipes to minimize heat loss and to reduce the volume of trapped water.



### *Use insulation . . .*

4. Losses of energy in pipes due to heat dissipation can be minimized by insulating hot water pipes from the source to the point of use.

# Area meter reading program to begin next month- will eliminate estimated billings

Beginning January 1980, Corn Belt Electric will initiate an Area Meter Reading Program. Discussing what the program is and why it's being implemented may seem repetitive, however, it is of primary importance that we have an informed membership.

Now, as in the past, your cooperative is experiencing the need to estimate monthly electric bills. This number has increased to where some action had to be taken to help alleviate the problem. Corn Belt's solution was Area Meter Readers.

Area Meter Readers is not original with Corn Belt Electric Cooperative. Other cooperatives have adopted such a program with great success. This is not to say there will be no problems. As with every program, problems will arise. These, however, are minimal and can be dealt with.

Following is a brief summary of advantages and the structure of the Area Meter Reading Program:

1. 1,000 to 1,200 bills are estimated each month, representing approximately 10 to 12 percent of our members. This results in our members not being billed accurately for their usage.

2. Stopped and tampered meters are found, saving revenue loss thereby ultimately helping us achieve the lowest possible rate to our members.

3. Members may err when reading their meters, the result being an incorrect bill being sent. Area Meter Readers should eliminate much of this problem.

4. Your Area Meter Reader will be someone who resides in your general location. This person would not only read your meter but would also be an extension of our Member Relations Department. This Area Meter Reader would provide another means by which you could express your concerns to the cooperative. You may want to report a pole leaning, loose

wire, tree dangerously close to the line, etc.

The above represents some of the reasons why your cooperative is implementing this program.

The program will work as follows:

1. Approximately 40 routes with about 240 members each are planned.

2. Reading dates will be the 19th, 20th, and 21st every month, the exception being Sunday and holidays.

3. Each route will be approximately 100 miles and will require 12 to 16 hours to read.

4. Normally it will take no more than two days to read a route but we have added an extra day to allow for bad weather.

Having addressed the always important questions of who, what where, and why, I am sure your thought rests with, "How much extra will this cost?" Your manager and staff have done extensive research on this program and are pleased to announce that there will be a minimal costs to our membership. The combination of reduced line loss through stopped and tampered meters, part-time employees as opposed to full time employees, and improved cash flow, will nearly fund this project. Another time-saving feature is it will provide more accurate information in dealing with bill inquiries when we know the readings are correct and the date when the meter was read. This will allow us to serve you more efficiently and effectively. As your cooperative grows these area of savings will increase and only forestall the increase for energy that we are all experiencing in today's changing society.

Your management and staff stand ready to serve you and we are always striving to increase our efficiency and reduce your cost. Your continued cooperation and support is never taken for granted as we are trying to keep Corn Belt Electric Cooperative cognitive of your needs.

## Your water heater element may be energy waster

Do you have an ample supply of hot water? Does it meet the everyday needs of your household? Or, is it exhausted before you finish your shower, or begin to cool down when more than a few gallons are used doing the household chores?

If this is the case at your house, then your electric water heater apparently is not operating efficiently and the probable cause is dirty water heater elements. A clean element that is free of all mineral deposits will transfer heat more efficiently to the water.

A coating of mineral deposits and other impurities found in hard water acts as an insulator—making heat transfer extremely difficult.

If you live in an area that has predominately hard water, and you know this by experience from scale build-up on your cooking utensils, and you have this type of heating element in your water heater (most people do), then you should make periodic checks and remove this built-up scale.

To do this your hot water heater must be turned off, drained and the element removed and cleaned. Care must be taken in such an operation to keep from damaging the element when removing from the water heater and when removing the scale. Sometimes a replacement may be necessary.

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## Notice of Closing

Corn Belt Electric Cooperatives holiday schedule for December is as follows:

Our office will be closed Monday, December 24, and Tuesday, December 25, for Christmas, and Monday, December 31, and Tuesday, January 1, for New Year's. In case of outages, please contact our office, as a recorded message will inform you of the proper person to contact.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our members and employees.



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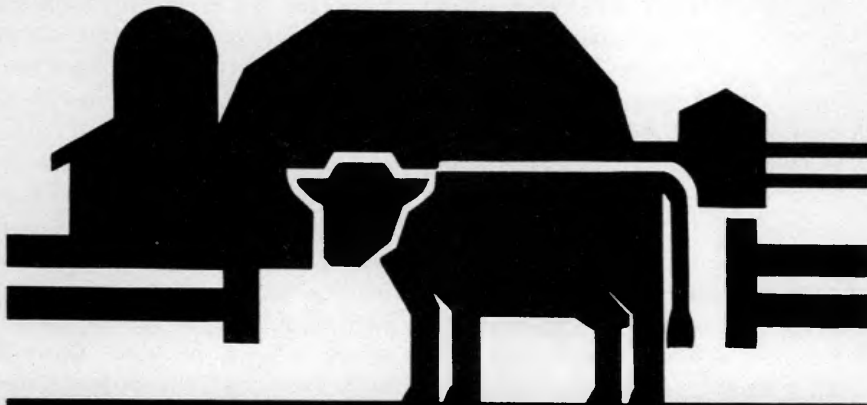
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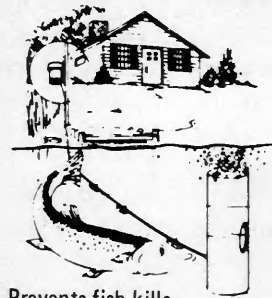
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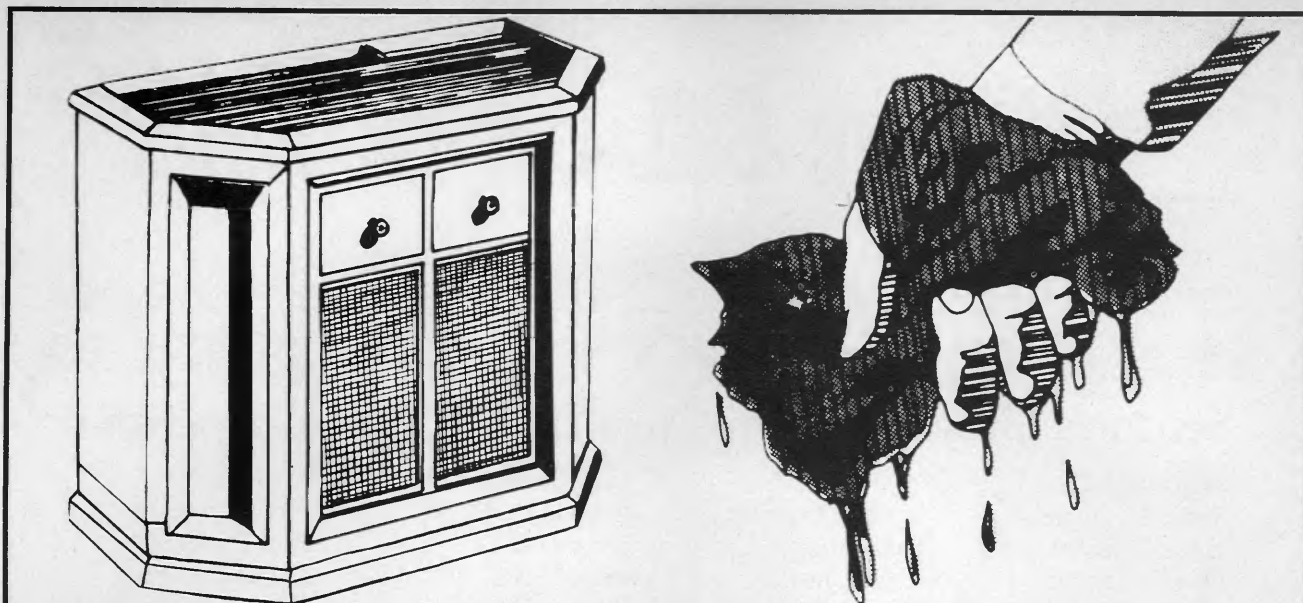


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*Portable humidifiers are becoming an increasingly popular appliance in the home. Proper humidification during the heating season can make for more comfortable surroundings, but it is possible to over-humidify a dwelling. Among the problems which can occur because of over-humidification is too much moisture in the insulation material, which can cause a reduction in the insulation value.*

and similar water-consuming activities. Water vapor from these activities will increase the indoor relative humidity.

High levels of humidity during winter can cause condensation on inside colder surfaces such as window glass, inside surface of metal grills of exhaust, inside surfaces of exterior walls, ceilings, reduce insulation effectiveness and possibly cause water vapor to condense and accumulate in the framing and building materials. As a result, the ultimate cause can be deterioration of structural members if such moisture condensation is quite frequent or continuous.

Usually, such high moisture production is related to excessive use of humidifiers, water seepage in the basements, no vapor barrier over damp ground and crawl spaces, water seepage into heating ducts located under a slab, unvented clothes dryers, improperly vented gas hot water heaters, unvented gas space heaters or similar items. Homes that usually have good vapor barriers in the walls and ceilings, but no vapor barrier above ground crawl spaces and inadequate exhaust fans in the kitchen, bathroom and laundry room, will have sufficient moisture accumulation. Also, electrically heated homes (no combustion air needed) with low air infiltration rates, normal rates of household water vapor production and a vapor barrier in the ceiling may have

considerable moisture buildup.

Some methods of decreasing the humidity levels in the home involve 1) installation of a dehumidifier, 2) installation of adequate exhaust fans for the kitchen, bath and laundry areas, 3) installation of humidistats to control bath and laundry exhaust fans, and 4) proper ventilation of clothes dryers. The exhaust air from these ventilation fans should be vented to the outside air. All exhaust fans should also be equipped with an automatic back-damper which prohibits the reverse flow of undesirable air.

Table I, based on data published by the National Association of Home Builders, can serve as a guide for attaining a proper humidity level in the home. It shows the indoor relative humidity at a point of which condensation will occur, assuming the inside air temperature is 70 degrees F., for both single and double glass windows

at various outdoor temperatures.

In conclusion, there are many situations which would tend to cause low humidity and high humidity levels in the home. The activities within a home greatly affect the house's atmosphere. Therefore, try to achieve a desirable "mid-range" relative humidity level of approximately 35-40 percent in the home and on extremely cold days, when the outside temperature is below average, approximately -10 degrees F., adjust the humidistat to a lower setting in order to avoid or reduce moisture accumulation or condensation in the home. A precise formula for attaining a proper humidity level cannot be simply stated due to the many variables which affect humidity levels. Contact your local cooperative if you need more specific information in attaining the proper humidity level based on the activities within your home.

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# Corn Belt Electric News

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

309-662-5330

BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

## Season's Greetings from Corn Belt Electric Cooperative

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Wayne Williams  
Michael Wingett  
Larry Young

## Outage report

Date	Time	Substation or Area	Members Involved	Reason
10/1/79	3:55 P.M. — 4:55 P.M.	West of Colfax	27	Lightning
10/2/79	3:38 A.M. — 5:55 A.M.	Southwest of LeRoy	209	Pole broken by car
10/2/79	1:24 P.M. — 2:08 P.M.	East of Tremont	68	Construction
10/9/79	11:27 A.M. — 1:08 P.M.	North of Mackinaw	52	Member dropped tree into line
10/10/79	11:00 A.M. — 1:14 P.M.	North of Armington	57	Line burned down
10/10/79	4:17 P.M. — 4:35 P.M.	West of Bloomington	38	Unknown
10/18/79	7:05 A.M. — 7:31 A.M.	Maroa substation	431	Illinois Power lost power to sub
10/20/79	4:30 P.M. — 6:25 P.M.	Southwest Farmer City	24	Tree fell on line
10/22/79	10:58 A.M. — 11:38 A.M.	Northwest of Danvers	107	Unknown
10/23/79	11:45 A.M. — 1:05 P.M.	Northwest of Danvers	312	Wire break
10/23/79	8:37 A.M. — 9:20 P.M.	Southwest Bloomington	353	Line burned down
10/30/79	1:30 P.M. — 3:12 P.M.	North & West of Hopedale	291	Wire slapping
10/31/79	10:20 A.M. — 12:39 P.M.	Hartsburg area	31	Wire break
10/31/79	11:20 A.M. — 12:45 P.M.	Kappa-El Paso-Panola area	219	Material failure