

Spoon River News

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

Helping Farmers Boost Efficiency

As I watch farmers gathering the fall harvest, I remember the seeds of change their predecessors planted in our community. We continue to reap the benefits of their vision, and I'm proud of our work to support the future of farming.

In 1938, a group of farmers and rural neighbors banded together to create Spoon River Electric Cooperative. They needed electricity to improve their quality of life and farming operations.

Fast forward 75 years, and I think you'll agree that it's been a bountiful harvest. Spoon River Electric provides electricity to many farms throughout its five-county service area. We help these members keep facilities running as efficiently as possible by offering energy audits and tips on efficient equipment operations.

Our Cooperative's businesses, including farms, can take efficiency measures to cut electric bills and use less energy. Every kilowatt-hour a farm avoids using saves money for all Spoon River Electric members in the long run. If we use less energy collectively, our wholesale power supplier, Prairie Power, can avoid pur-

chasing power on the expensive open market and delay building more power plants.

Even on the farm, energy efficiency doesn't have to be a complicated effort. Small efforts add up in savings. Consider these steps:

- Turn off lights when they're not needed, or install photo- and motion sensors.
- Place a timer on window air-conditioners in outbuildings so they turn off when no one is present. Schedule them to turn back on before you expect to return.
- When lights, heating, and cooling units can't be turned all the way off, turn them down and cut wasted energy with dimmers or a programmable thermostat.
- Keep equipment clean and perform regular maintenance.

That's just the beginning. For more ways to save energy and money on your farm, use the animal housing, irrigation, nitrogen, tillage, and grain drying energy calculators at EnergyTools.sc.egov.usda.gov.

Spoon River Electric Cooperative Operations Manager shows a Cooperative bucket truck to children from an Illini Bluffs summer care program during a field trip to the co-op's Canton office.

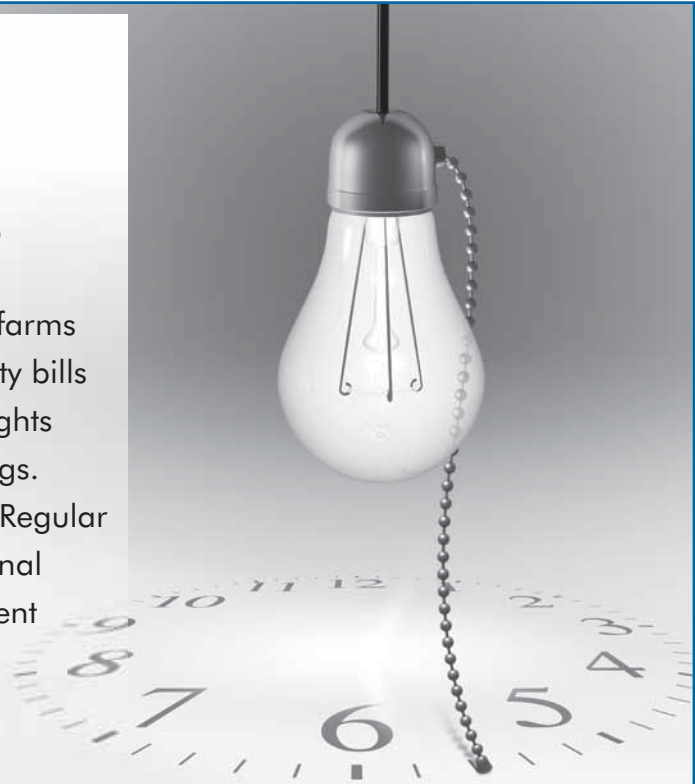




Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Like homes and other businesses, farms of all types can lower their electricity bills by turning off or reducing use of lights and small equipment in outbuildings. Timers and sensors can help, too. Regular cleaning, maintenance, and seasonal tune-ups help keep larger equipment running at top efficiency.

Source: E Source



Spoon River Electric Cooperative

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Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,249 • Number of members served: 4,944
Number of power poles in territory: 29,255

Save on energy bills with an energy audit

Looking to save on energy bills, but not sure how? Spoon River Electric Cooperative is now offering whole-house and walk-through energy audits.

Josh DeWees and Joe Hedges recently completed coursework and testing for auditor certification from the Building Performance Institute. They will come to your home and show you where air leaks in your home could be costing you money.

There are two levels of energy audits available:

■ **The whole-house audit is a comprehensive audit that takes several hours.**

Combustible appliances will be tested for safety and a blower door will be used to simulate weather conditions that aggravate air loss. The auditors will also use an infrared camera to find areas where air sealing and insulation can improve the comfort of your home. You will receive a written report and can also get calculations of how much savings you may realize from upgrading insulation. The cost of this audit for SREC members is \$200.

■ **The walk-through audit is a lighter version of a whole-house audit.**

Auditors will examine your home, discuss comfort issues, review bills and show you areas where air loss can increase energy costs. This is a good opportunity to ask any questions you have about your home's insulation and air sealing. The cost of this audit for SREC members is \$50.

If you're interested in learning more about the benefits of an energy audit, call the Cooperative office at (309) 647-2700.



Spoon River Mechanical Services Building Performance Analyst Joe Hedges begins a safety check of a water heater before beginning an energy audit at a customer's home.



Spoon River Electric Cooperative Manager of Line Clearance Josh DeWees, also a BPI-certified energy auditor, provides Spoon River Mechanical Services Building Performance Analyst Joe Hedges blower door readings for calculations about the air loss in a customer's home.



EVERYDAY SAVINGS

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