



Spoon River News

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President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

Thankful for our Co-op



At my family's Thanksgiving dinner each year, we all take turns saying something we're grateful for. My list is usually about the same—good health, wonderful family and friends, and a job serving the great people in our rural service territory.

I'm thankful to be a part of Spoon River Electric Cooperative. Our employees are some of the hardest workers I know. Our mission is to provide affordable, reliable, safe electric power, but we also aim to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve. It's a mission we all take seriously.



I'm thankful for Spoon River Electric Cooperative because it allows employees to live alongside those we serve. The beauty of a cooperative is that it's locally owned and operated; there are no distant shareholders pulling the strings behind the scenes. Members elect members to serve on the board of directors and govern the co-op. We are your neighbors, your friends, your family.

I'm thankful for my co-op because it serves as a vibrant force in the local economy—partly because we are local. That means Spoon River Electric Cooperative is invested in the future of its communities. We support local programs and the development of new businesses in our service territory.

I'm thankful for my co-op because we care. From giving scholarships to young people to reaching out to members with information that will help them save energy and money, we care about the people and the towns we serve.

Finally, I'm thankful for you, our members and faithful readers, because without you, there'd be no Spoon River Electric Cooperative.

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us here at your electric co-op.



Spoon River Electric Cooperative Operations Manager Frank Romane, center, talks with other judges at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Lineman's Rodeo. Romane has been judging the annual event for several years.



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

If you're expecting guests for holiday festivities, consider giving your heating unit a break. With the oven cranked up and the house packed with people, the temperature will rise on its own. Also make sure it has a clean filter so it can work as efficiently as possible all winter long. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com

Source: TogetherWeSave.com



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

Cooking Efficiently

Control energy costs while preparing holiday feasts

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that cooking alone accounts for 4 percent of total home energy use, and this figure doesn't include the energy costs associated with refrigeration, hot water heating, and dishwashing.

As holiday parties and potlucks gear up, keep these tips in mind to control energy costs:

- **Don't peek.** Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, forcing it to use more energy to get back to the proper cooking temperature.
- **Turn it down or turn it off.** For regular cooking, it's probably not necessary to have your oven on as long—or set as high—as the recipe calls for. For recipes that need to bake for longer than an hour, preheating the oven isn't necessary. And residual heat on an electric oven or stovetop will finish the last 5 to 10 minutes of baking time. Just remember to keep the oven door closed or the lid on until time is up.




Alternately, if you're baking in a ceramic or glass dish, you can typically set your oven for 25 degrees less than the recipe calls for. Because ceramic and glass hold heat better than metal pans, your dish will cook just as well at a lower temperature.

- **Give your burners a break.** For your stovetop to function effectively, it's important that the metal reflectors under your electric stove burners stay free of dirt and grime.

- **Don't neglect your slow-cooker.** Or your microwave, toaster oven, or warming plate. For example, the average toaster oven can use up to half the energy of the average electric stove over the same cooking time. Information to help you estimate how much energy your own appliances use is available on EnergySavers.gov.
- **Give your furnace the day off.** If your next party involves a lot of work for your stove, think about turning down your furnace to compensate. The heat of the oven and all those guests will keep the temperature comfortable.
- **Make contact.** Electric stovetops can only transmit heat to pans they are in direct contact with; the less contact your pan has with the burner, the more energy the stovetop will have to expend to heat the pan. If cooking with your warped pan is taking longer than it should, it may be time for a flat-bottomed update.

<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">LOAF OF BREAD</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1936.....</td> <td>8¢</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013.....</td> <td>\$1.41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>INCREASE.....</td> <td>18X</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	LOAF OF BREAD		1936.....	8¢	2013.....	\$1.41	INCREASE.....	18X	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">ELECTRICITY</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1936.....</td> <td>5¢</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013.....</td> <td>11¢</td> </tr> <tr> <td>INCREASE.....</td> <td>2X</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="font-size: small;">BASED ON AVERAGE COST PER KILOWATT HOUR</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ELECTRICITY		1936.....	5¢	2013.....	11¢	INCREASE.....	2X	BASED ON AVERAGE COST PER KILOWATT HOUR		<h2 style="margin: 0;">ELECTRICITY PUTS BREAD ON YOUR TABLE. AND KEEPS IT IN YOUR WALLET.</h2>
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Keeping energy affordable. Just another way it pays to be a co-op member. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at TogetherWeSave.com.

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM



Let's give thanks this year

- **To the linemen** who risk their lives in every kind of weather to keep the lights on
- **To the people in the co-op office** who provide information that helps you better understand how you use electricity to keep your electric bill as low as possible
- **To the forestry crews** who clear brush and trim trees to reduce blinks and outages
- **To the co-op manager** who works with power suppliers to ensure you will have affordable electricity far into the future

Happy Thanksgiving from everyone at your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative. We're thankful to have **YOU** as a member!

