

Spoon River News

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

Saving Money is No Joke

We've all heard this joke: How many (insert random type of person here) does it take to change a lightbulb? While the comedic value of the answer sometimes leaves a bit to be desired, the underlying principle—simple changes can needlessly get complicated—stays the same.

The average home contains 40 light fixtures, according to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Thanks to a series of staggered federal standards and more lighting choices than ever before, the average homeowner could save \$50 every year by using more energy efficient lightbulbs.

This year, the first of several federal lightbulb efficiency standards kicked in, requiring manufacturers to stop making 100-watt (W) incandescent bulbs in favor of ones using less electricity to produce the same amount of light (lumens). This doesn't mean the outmoded bulbs went away—you can still find old stock at stores around town. But keep in mind that those traditional incandescent bulbs waste 90 percent of your lighting costs as heat.

If you don't want to stray too far from the bulbs you're used to, consider halogen incandescent lightbulbs. Color options and dimming abilities mirror their time-tested forebearers, but they cut energy consumption by 25 percent and last three times longer.

Another style we've championed for years is the compact fluorescent lamp (CFL). These swirly bulbs slash energy use by 75 percent compared to traditional incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer.

But for folks who don't like the pigtail CFL shape or who worry about the very small amount of mercury in these bulbs, another, brighter option looms on the horizon: light-



emitting diodes (LEDs). These solid-state products have been used in electronics since the 1960s, and manufacturers are ramping up efforts to transform them into the perfect replacement bulb. LEDs require 75 percent to 80 percent less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs and can last 25 times longer—by far the longest lifespan yet.

DOE estimates it'll take more than six years for a \$40, 800-lumen (60-W-equivalent) LED to pay for itself. But investments in manufacturing and increased demand should help drive down costs. By 2021, LED prices are expected to drop by a factor of 10, and that's good news for anyone who enjoys the thought

(Continued on page 16b)

Cody Cowgirl Casserole

Ingredients:

- Vegetable Oil or nonstick cooking spray
- 1 pound bulk sausage, browned and drained
- ½ pound bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 12 ounces frozen hash brown potatoes
- 1 medium green bell pepper, chopped
- 2 tablespoons chopped green onion (I use a whole onion)
- 2 cups shredded Cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese, divided
- 1 cup reduced-fat Bisquick
- 3 cups 2% reduced-fat milk
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 4 eggs

Directions:

- 1) Oil a 13 x 9 inch glass baking dish or spray it with cooking spray
- 2) Combine sausage, bacon, hash browns, bell pepper, onions and 1 cup cheese in a large bowl. Spread in baking dish
- 3) Whisk together Bisquick, milk, salt and eggs until well blended. Pour over potato mixture. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Cover and refrigerate overnight (no longer than 24 Hours)

The next day:

- 4) Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Remove dish from refrigerator.
- 5) Bake, uncovered 30 to 35 Minutes, until light golden brown around the edges. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Serves 12

Spoon River Electric Cooperative and Mechanical employees will be sharing their favorite recipes in this space. This month's recipe comes from Jane Wages, Director of Billing and Accounting at Spoon River Mechanical Services.



Saving Money is No Joke

(Continued from page 16a)

of only changing a lightbulb once every 20 years or so.

In January 2013, a new set of lightbulb efficiency standards fall into place, this time halting production of inefficient 75-W incandescent bulbs. A year later, household lightbulbs using between 40-W to 100-W must consume at least 28 percent less energy than classic bulbs, saving Americans an estimated \$6 billion to \$10 billion in lighting costs annually.

So what's the punchline? Every time you change a lightbulb, buy a more efficient replacement. No matter which kind you opt for, you'll save money every time you flip a light switch—and that's nothing to chuckle about.

Spoon River Electric Cooperative

930 South Fifth Ave, PO Box 340, Canton, IL 61520
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
309-647-2700 • www.srecoop.org

President/CEO

William R. Dodds
bdodds@srecoop.org

Chairman

Jack Clark, Lewistown

Vice Chairman

Bernard Marvel, Browning

Secretary

Steve Pille, Glasford

Treasurer

Lyle Nelson, Abingdon

Assistant Treasurer

Terry Beam, Cuba

Board of Directors

James Banks, Canton
Robert Lascelles, Ipava
Greg Leigh, Avon
John Spangler, Marietta

Editor of Spoon River News

Brenda Rothert
brothert@srecoop.org

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

Watch for co-op crews working in your area

Spoon River Electric Cooperative employees and contractors work throughout our service territory, including on the rights-of-way and easements, and across your private property and driveways. Our efforts to ensure reliable power for you and your neighbors mean we must cross your property from time to time.

You may see us:

- Making routine repairs
- Restoring power outages
- Replacing meters
- Maintaining vegetation in rights-of-way

- Locating buried utilities for construction and digging projects
- Working to upgrade poles, wires, transformers and equipment
- Inspecting lines, power poles, transformer boxes and equipment

Field work, except emergency power restoration, is done during normal working hours, 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Every effort is made to avoid damage and unnecessary intrusion. There are times we need to access areas

that are secured by locked gates. If you need to have a locked gate for security, please call our office so we can make arrangements for access. The need for access is not always planned, as there are times we need to access areas for power restoration or other emergencies.

If you have concerns about our work on your property, contact our office at (309) 647-2700. We appreciate your cooperation.



Linemen from Spoon River Electric Cooperative have worked in some record-high temperatures in recent months. In these photos, Linemen Mike Coffey, Rick Roudebush and Ed Harper were retiring a pole and electric service on a day that topped 100 degrees.

Auto Debit Payment Plan

worry free! _____

fill out the form below or attach a voided blank check

Bank Name: _____

Bank Location: _____

Savings _____ Checking _____

Account #: _____

Bank Route/Checking #: _____

Member Signature: _____

Spoon River Electric Account #: _____

remember to void your check!

return to:
Spoon River Electric Cooperative
Attn: Billing
PO Box 340
Canton, IL 61520

