



Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

Divernon Food Pantry selected for annual donation

Employees of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative collected \$280 for the Divernon Food Pantry, and RECC matched their contributions. Pantry Coordinator Cindy Pflug was grateful to receive the \$560 charitable donation and said it would help keep the shelves full. RECC employees have made similar donations to food pantries in Pawnee, Raymond, Girard, Waverly and Palmyra. We certainly hope the tradition continues.



Cindy Pflug accepts a donation from Lineman Dalton Brown, who is also a proud Divernonite.

“Thank you so very much for this generous gift.”

– Cindy Pflug, Coordinator

The food pantry is located on the lower level of the United Methodist Church on 503 S 2nd St., Divernon.



Help keep our lineworkers safe

A lineman's job is not easy. Our linemen take great pride in providing safe and reliable service, but their job involves working on and around live power out in the elements. We ask you to do your part to keep them safe:

1. Slow down and move over in work zones. Cars or trucks that go too fast not only endanger workers on the ground. Driving too fast or not moving over can also put a lineman who is working high up in a bucket in danger by causing it to move or sway.
2. Do not post anything on a utility pole, especially with staples, nails or tacks. These can puncture insulated gloves or other protective clothing and expose workers to high voltages.
3. Never plug a generator into an indoor or outdoor wall outlet. The power that back feeds into the electric line could electrocute a utility worker.
4. Please be patient when the power goes out. Workers need to efficiently and safely restore power.



Rural  Electric
Convenience Cooperative

RECC Linemen stringing new conductors southeast of Auburn.

We appreciate your help in keeping our employees safe. Please contact us at 217-438-6197 if you have questions concerning our linemen's safety. For more information about any electrical safety topic, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Space heaters should only be a temporarily solution

Many companies advertise that their electric space heater can save money and reduce electric bills, but they neglect to mention that these products are responsible for the majority of high bills in the winter. Electric space heaters may be small, but they can consume as much electricity as anything in your home. A typical 1,500-watt heater will cost around 19 cents an hour to run. Not bad for a quick warm up, but that would cost \$4.56 if operating all day. Still not terrible for only one day, but when left on for the entire month, it could total as much as \$141.36.

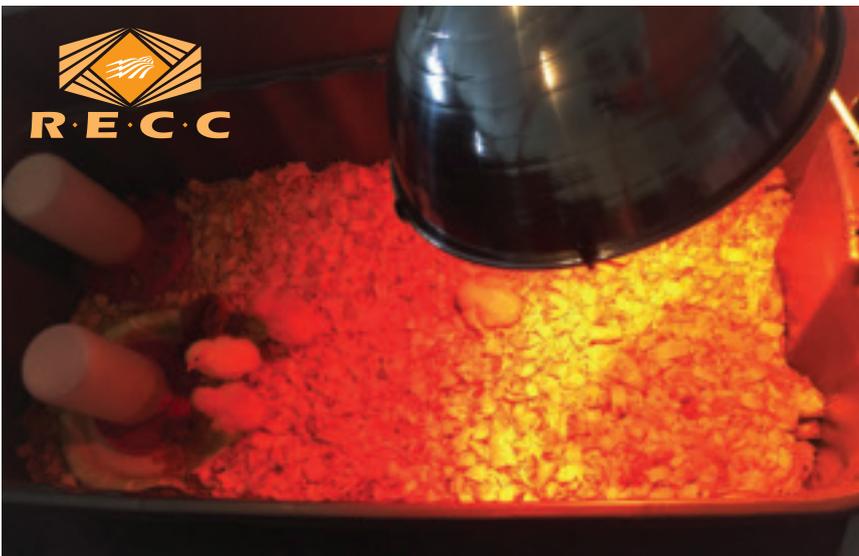
These numbers are based on continuous use, and most members don't intend on leaving their heaters running all month long. Unfortunately,

they are designed to heat a very small room, such as a 12 x 12 bedroom. When they are set up in a 2-car garage, unheated breezeway or patio, they struggle to maintain the thermostat setting. This results in the undersized space heater running virtually non-stop.

Savings can only occur if you substantially reduce the running time of your furnace or other primary heating system. You could reduce your electric bill by lowering the thermostat several degrees and use the space heater to warm a single occupied room. Most use space heaters to heat an area that is not usually warm, resulting in the space heater simply become an additional cost. If you're using an

electric space heater to supplement a propane furnace, your propane use will drop, but your electric bill will still increase. Electric space heaters can provide heat in small portions of basements and garages, but they are only a temporary solution. The heaters are simply not designed for 24-hours a day use and members should be aware of the long-term cost of operation.

If you need more heat in your home, look first to your primary heating system. You may just need additional ductwork. This could be true if a small addition was recently added. If your heating system can't handle a larger load, look into small package units like the ones used in hotel rooms or the popular mini-split



systems. Another option would be to install a permanent base board or wall heater. This option would not be any more efficient, but this style of heater could be appropriately sized for the area and provide a safer alternative to temporary space heaters. Finally, if you are trying to keep animals warm in an unconditioned space, consider placing a 375-watt heat lamp directly above instead of trying to heat the entire area with a 1,500-watt space heater. The bulb will use less electricity and the radiant heat will make the animals feel warmer.

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

3973 W. State Route 104
P.O. Box 19 • Auburn, IL 62615
(217) 438-6197
e-mail: recc@recc.coop
www.recc.coop

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See our web page for monthly
Board meeting reports.

News & Notes

Last chance to sign up for Youth Tour

High school juniors, apply for great trips to Springfield and Washington, D.C.! On March 31, all students who apply will tour the Capitol and other historic sites in Springfield and meet with their state legislators. Two of those students will be selected to attend the Youth To Washington trip, June 19-26, with about 1,000 young people from around the country. RECC sponsors these trips to encourage students to learn more about our government's operation and about electric cooperatives.

Applications must be completed and returned to RECC by February 18, 2020. They can call our office at 217-438-6197 to ask for an application packet or email a request to recc@recc.coop. Don't miss the chance to meet new friends, learn about our government and co-ops, and have fun!

Annual meeting announcement

RECC's annual meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2020 at Glenwood High School in Chatham. All members are encouraged to attend. The last year has been exciting for RECC, and we look forward to sharing the cooperative's progress with our members. Please join us.

Nominating committee to meet March 12

The board of directors will select nine co-op members to serve on the nominating committee, which will meet on Thursday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m. The committee will select candidates for director elections in three districts, to be held at the RECC Annual Meeting on June 11, 2020 in Chatham.

Director positions up for election to three-year terms this year are District 4 (incumbent Thomas Hart of Atwater), District 5 (incumbent John Beatty of Waverly, not seeking reelection) and District 6 (incumbent Mel Repscher).

Candidates may also be named by petitions signed by 15 or more members in that district. Petition forms are available from the co-op office in Auburn. See next month's newsletter for official notifications and details.

Director requirements and responsibilities

Directors must receive electric service from RECC at their primary residence and follow the same policies as all other members. They are not eligible to serve on the board if they have any conflicting business interest.

Your board of directors meets regularly on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Directors are expected to attend all regular monthly board meetings, in addition to various conferences throughout the year. Directors spend 23-35 days each year representing the cooperative.