Do you like to cook? If so, we would like to feature your favorite recipe in our monthly Recipe Central column. Whether it's an age-old family tradition or something you whip up for that carry-in dinner, we want to share your recipes with our viewers. Please tell us a little bit about where your recipe came from and what makes it special to you and your family! You can mail it to Tri-County Electric, PO Box 159, Lancaster MO 63548 or e-mail it to tricountyelectricmo@gmail.com.

This month’s featured recipe is Christmas Morning Rolls from the kitchen of Carla Ausmus. She whips these up on Christmas Eve night and on Christmas morning her family has a fresh, hot breakfast without the fuss! Once you try them, she is sure they will become a holiday tradition!

**Christmas Morning Rolls**

by Carla Ausmus

- 1 bag frozen dinner rolls
- 1 3 3/4 oz pkg cook and serve butterscotch pudding
- 1/2 C butter
- 3/4 C brown sugar
- 3/4 t cinnamon
- 1/2 C chopped nuts (Optional) (I use pecans)

Arrange the rolls in a greased tube pan (bundt or angel food pan). Sprinkle dry pudding mix over the rolls. Cook butter and remaining ingredients over low heat until sugar is dissolved and mixture bubbles. Pour over rolls. Cover tightly with foil or plastic wrap that has been coated with non-stick cooking spray. Let stand on the counter overnight. The next morning, bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Let cool for 5 minutes and then invert pan onto a serving dish. Enjoy!

**EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT**

Dalton Smith is our spotlight employee this month. He is an Adair County native. He graduated from Kirksville Senior High in 2010. He continued his education at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, Iowa graduating in 2012 with an AAS in Power Line Technology. He worked for a short time at Hutton Line Contracting in Miami, Oklahoma after graduation. He then worked for Pike Electric for three years, where he traveled extensively as a lineman.

Dalton began working at Tri-County Electric Cooperative on June 15, 2015. He is a journeyman lineman. He resides in rural Adair County in a home constructed by himself and his father. When he is not working or on call, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with his fiancé Malissa. If you see him out in your neighborhood, be sure to say hello.

**WE STILL NEED YOUR PHOTOS!**

Don’t forget to enter Tri-County Electric’s photo contest. We will be featuring six photographs, in our annual meeting calendar, that have been taken by our members. This year’s theme is “What Represents Rural Living to You”. In addition to having your photo featured, the six winners will each be awarded a $25.00 energy certificate.

Rules:
1. ONLY Tri-County Electric Cooperative members are eligible.
2. Limit TWO entries per person. Entry form required for EACH photo.
3. Submit 8” x 10” print on photo quality paper PLUS email a high resolution digital file (minimum 300 dpi) of the photograph submitted to tricountyelectricmo@gmail.com or send on a CD with the print.
4. Image must be a HORIZONTAL (Landscape format).
5. Photos may be any appropriate subject or scene but must be taken in the Tri-County Electric Cooperative service area (Adair, Putnam, Schuyler, Scotland, and Sullivan Counties). For images depicting children (17 years-old & under) parents must sign a photo release form which can be obtained by stopping by the office or by phone/email.

Questions? Contact the Tri-County Electric Cooperative Communications Department weekdays at 660-457-3733, ext 216.
ELECTRONIC GIFT GUIDE

This holiday season, give the gift of tech! If you’re searching for the latest gadgets and electronics to gift but don’t know where to start, we’ve got you covered. Here’s a list of ideas for your tech-savvy friends and family members, and with a range of prices and interests, there’s sure to be something for everyone.

Gifts for those on the go: We all have that one friend who never stays in one place, so they’ll appreciate gifts that keep them charged and entertained while on the go. A portable charger (or power bank) can keep their smart phones and tablets juiced, and the good news is this gift won’t drain your wallet. You can purchase portable chargers online or at local retailers for as low as $20. Typically, these compact devices can fully charge an iPhone three times before running out of steam. A Bluetooth speaker is another great gift to keep those on the go entertained. Whether they’re listening to their favorite tunes or watching the latest flick, Bluetooth speakers can clarify and amplify volume to satisfy any media enthusiast. Prices range depending on features, but you can purchase a quality Bluetooth speaker online or at local retailers for as low as $30.

Gifts for the chef: Every foodie knows that temperature matters when mastering the perfect cut of meat. A Bluetooth-connected thermometer can help your chef ensure a delicious (and safe-to-eat) meal. Just download the associated app and keep an eye on the grill right from your smart phone or tablet. Prices vary from $30 to $200, but you can purchase these handy gadgets online or at any big box store, like Wal-Mart or Target. A digital kitchen scale is a must for any culinary pro. No more guessing — the easy-to-read digital screen ensures the exact weight or amount required for that perfect dish. Prices vary depending on the weight the scale can handle, but you can find a 13-pound max weight scale for about $20 on Amazon.com.

Gifts for the pet owner: Let’s face it — pet owners would be lost without their fur babies. Luckily, pet tracking products continue to advance, so pet owners can always keep a watchful eye on their furry friends. Most trackers simply attach to your pet’s collar. Prices vary depending on the tracker’s capabilities, but some features include water resistance, health monitoring and exceptional battery life. You can purchase pet trackers online or at your local pet store. Speaking of keeping an eye on pets, you can also purchase surveillance cameras for real-time monitoring — some cameras even allow you to toss treats to your furry friend while you’re away. Additional features include a microphone (so you can talk to your pets), a built-in laser toy (for our feline friends) and the ability to snap a photo or take video from your smart phone. Prices vary depending on the bells and whistles, but you can purchase a pet camera for as low as $40 on Amazon.com.

With so many electronics available today, you’re sure to find the perfect gift for your tech-savvy loved ones. Happy shopping!

Happy Holidays from Your Electric Co-op
Wishing you a merry and bright holiday season!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter clothing. You’ll spend less time drying the lighter-weight items.

Source: energy.gov
OPERATION ROUNDUP FAQ’S

Q: What is Operation Roundup?
A: It is a program where Tri-County Electric members’ electric bills are rounded up to the next dollar. These are voluntary contributions and the member can opt out at any time. 100% of the funds will be distributed within our local communities.

Q: How did Operation Roundup get started?
A: Palmetto Electric Cooperative in South Carolina began this program in 1989. Since then, cooperatives across the nation have adopted this program.

Q: What are the proceeds of Operation Roundup used for and who controls these funds?
A: All “rounded up” funds collected are overseen by Tri-County Electric Charity Foundation which is a not-for-profit entity controlled by a volunteer board of directors. The board will decide, based on an application process, who receives these funds. Fund recipients must be a not-for-profit organization located within our local communities. Examples of whom would be eligible to apply would be schools, civic organizations, health departments, senior centers, food banks, and many more.

Q: How does Operation Roundup work?
A: Beginning March 1, 2020 Tri-County Electric members’ bills will be rounded up to the next whole dollar. For example, if your bill is $100.89 your bill would be rounded up to $101.00. If your bill is $109.22, your bill would be rounded up to $110.00. The average yearly donation amount is $6.00 with the maximum being $11.88. You can find the amount of your contribution each month on your electric bill.

Q: What if I don’t want to participate?
A: Tri-County Electric members are automatically enrolled in Operation Roundup. However, you can decide to opt out. If you wish to opt out of the program, simply contact our office at 660-457-3733 and tell us you’d rather not be enrolled.

Q: Are the contributions I make to Operation Roundup tax deductible?
A: Yes, all contributions made are tax deductible.

Q: Will there be a yearly audit of the funds?
A: Yes, Tri-County Electric Charity Foundation will undergo a yearly audit by an independent CPA auditing firm just like the financials of the electric cooperative are audited.

Q: Will the contributions I make to Operation Roundup be held in an interest-bearing account?
A: Yes, all funds will be held in an interest-bearing account separate from that of the electric cooperative.

NEW COOP CONNECTIONS BUSINESS PARTNER

We would like to welcome our newest business partner, Alliant Bank, to the Coop Connections Program. They are a full service bank located on Baltimore Street in Kirksville, MO. If you are a member of the Coop Connections program, Alliant Bank is offering $25 to anyone who opens up a Kasasa Checking Account with direct deposit. Yes, that’s right, $25! What a deal! Please stop by the bank or give them a call to learn more about this offer.

We invite you to log onto connections.coop and create an account today. If you do not have a card, you can print it from the website or contact Tri-County Electric Coop. You will find Alliant Bank’s offer as well as numerous other offers from area businesses. It doesn’t stop there however. There are National Deals, Healthy Savings Deals, and Travel Deals too.

Congratulations!

Work Anniversary
Barbara Akers
December 16  6 years

Cameron Kirmse December 17
Braxton Shaw December 21
Amy Farris December 25
Barbara Akers December 29
MANAGER’S MESSAGE

TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC ANNOUNCES
OPERATION ROUNDUP PROGRAM

It’s that time of year when giving is all around us. I believe giving to our community is one of the most important gifts of the season. That is why, as CEO, I am pleased to announce that Tri-County Electric Coop will implement the opt out Operation Roundup program on March 1, 2020.

Commitment to our local communities is not only one of the Seven Cooperative Principles, but something that myself, board of directors, and employees at the cooperative try to live by each day. The Operation Roundup program is one way the cooperative and our member owners can give back to our local communities.

How can you be a part of donating you may ask? All Tri-County Electric members will be automatically enrolled in the Operation Roundup program. What does this mean to you as a member owner? Your electric bill will be rounded up to the next whole dollar. The change you donate will be transferred to the Tri-County Electric Charity Foundation. These funds will then be awarded, via an application process, to not-for-profit organizations within our local communities. Your participation is voluntary and you can choose to opt out at any time by contacting the electric cooperative.

Please remember that while it may be pocket change you are donating, when combined with all electric coop members, it can make a huge impact in our local communities. I hope that you will see the importance of Operation Roundup and continue to donate.

From my family to yours, I wish you a joyous holiday season. May it be filled with peace, love, and joy!

CEO & General Manager
Jane Bahler-Hurt

SEPTEMBER 2019 Board Report

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SEPTEMBER 2019 Comparative Operating

At the September meeting of the Board of Directors’ of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, the board reviewed the following items:

- The board reviewed and approved the proposed agenda.
- The board reviewed and approved the following board meeting minutes regular Board Meeting (08/26/2019).
- The board reviewed and approved new memberships.
- The board reviewed and approved write-offs.
- The board reviewed and re-affirmed policies M-002 (Service Extension Single Phase) and M-003 (Service Extension Single Phase Seasonal).
- The board approved the Annual Meeting of Members location for 2020 which will be The Crossing in Kirksville.
- The board discussed the 2020 Budget and Capital Credits.
- The board reviewed safety, member services, and communications reports.
- The board received a report of operations.
- The board reviewed financials and expenditures in detail.
- The board heard reports from NEP and AMEC.
- The board reviewed the update on strategic planning.
- The next board meeting has been set for October 28, 2019.