PHOTO CONTEST

Do not 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 of any subject or scene but must be taken in the Tri-County Electric Cooperative service area (Adair, Putnam, Schuyler, Scotland, and Sullivan Counties).

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

RECIPE CENTRAL

BREAD PUDDING by Leanne James

Pudding:  
4 Eggs
1 Egg Yolk
3/4 c Sugar
1/2 c Milk
1/2 c Whipping Cream
1 T Vanilla

Cut into cubes

Sauce:  
1/2 c Sugar
1/2 c Whipping Cream
3 T Powdered Sugar
1 t Vanilla

Whipped Cream:
1/2 c Whipping Cream
1/2 c Brown Sugar
1/2 t Cinnamon

Cinnamon Sugar Topping:
1/2 t Cinnamon
2 T Sugar
1 T Vanilla

Sauce:
In a small saucepan, combine sugar, brown sugar, whipping cream, and butter. Cook over medium heat until mixture boils, stirring occasionally. Stir in cinnamon until well blended. Stir in bread (and raisins, optional). Let bread soak for 20 minutes, mixing occasionally to make sure all bread is coated in pudding mixture. Pour into baking dish. In a small bowl, stir cinnamon and sugar together until blended. Sprinkle on top of bread mixture. Bake uncovered for 55-65 minutes or until golden brown.

Whipped cream:
In a chilled mixing bowl, combine whipping cream, powdered sugar, and vanilla. Mix on high until soft/medium peaks form. Serve on top of bread pudding.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Welcome Natalie Cook! She is our newest addition at Tri-County Electric. She is a graduate of Moberly Senior High School and Iowa School of Beauty. She resides in Memphis, MO with her husband Dustin and three children (17 years-old & under). Natalie has operated Natalie’s New Outlooks, for the past 17 years. Desiring a career change, Natalie applied for the billing clerk position. She was hired on September 16, 2019. In her spare time she enjoys camping, boating, fishing, and spending time with her family.

COBANK SHARING SUCCESS GRANT

We are pleased to announce that Tri-County Charity Foundation has been chosen as a recipient of CoBank’s Sharing Success Grant for the amount of $7,500. This money will be used to fund projects for the betterment of our local communities and awarded via an application process.

Tri-County Charity Foundation was recently established and given 501(c)(3) status. Grants will be made to other organizations with the same not-for-profit status. Upon institution of the volunteer board of directors, operations will get underway. Be sure to watch for updates on how you can apply for your community project.

Additional funding for this foundation will be obtained from the Operation Roundup program. Implementation of this program by Tri-County Electric is slated for spring to early summer of 2020. We will be publishing information here, on our Facebook page, bill inserts, and our website. Stay tuned for more details in the future!
CO-OP MONTH CROSSWORD

October is National Co-op Month! Complete the crossword puzzle below to learn about ways co-ops are unique. Need a hint? Use the work bank below.

ANSWER KEY

1. DOWN: Local
   2. DOWN: Members
   3. DOWN: Principles
   4. ACROSS: Community
   5. ACROSS: Led

WORD BANK:

LED
MEMBERS
LOCAL
COMMUNITY
PRINCIPLES

CLUES:
1. Down: Co-ops are _______ organizations and businesses, so they understand the communities they serve.
2. Down: Co-ops don’t have customers; they have _______.
3. Down: All co-ops operate according to the same set of seven cooperative _______.
4. Across: “Concern for _______” is the seventh cooperative principle.
5. Across: Co-ops are _______ by the members they serve.

WHAT’S ON THAT POLE?

This illustration shows the basic equipment found on electric utility poles. The equipment varies according to the location and the service they provide.

Original illustration by Erin Binkley

SAFETY NEAR SOLAR

Like any other source of electricity, solar panels can pose potential hazards. Keep these safety tips in mind when you’re near solar panels.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER

Don’t forget to fall back on November 3! Set your clocks back by one hour.

FALL SAFETY TIPS FOR KIDS!

Fall is finally here! The leaves are changing, the weather is cooler and the holidays are just around the corner. But fall also brings a higher risk of home fires and electrical safety hazards. Read the safety tips below and fill in the blanks with the correct term from the word bank.

1. Candles and _______ should only be used by adults.
2. An adult should always stay in the kitchen when something is _______.
3. Smoke alarms should be tested every _______ to ensure they are working. Batteries should be replaced at least once every _______ or right away if they start to “beep.”
4. Make sure all are blown out before leaving a room.
5. Keep any items that can burn away from the stove, toaster and other cooking _______.
We’re Thankful for Our Sister Cooperatives

When you think about Tri-County Electric, you probably associate us with the local community. And you would be right. Our leadership team, board of directors, and employees all live and work right here in the community we serve. But you may not realize that Tri-County Electric is actually part of a much larger cooperative network that brings additional value, tools and knowledge that benefit you, the members of the co-op.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

When a severe weather event is predicted for our region, we call on our sister co-ops in areas unaffected by the approaching storm. Through this system of mutual aid, we coordinate with other co-ops to bring additional trucks, equipment and manpower to our area. We work together and share resources in order to restore power to our community. Tri-County Electric reciprocates by assisting other electric co-ops when they request help.

A defining characteristic of a cooperative is “cooperation among cooperatives.” This is a way that co-ops work together to meet bigger challenges such as power restoration after a severe weather event.

Another area in which Tri-County Electric benefits from cooperation among cooperatives is cyber security. Through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s (NRECA) “Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities Program” (RC3), we are able to access training, resources and tools to strengthen our efforts to combat cyber threats.

Tri-County Electric’s ability to tap into the larger electric cooperative network and access tools, products, resources, and leading practices from across the nation ultimately makes our co-op and our community stronger.

Giving back is the co-op way

As some of you might know, cooperatives across the globe adhere to the same Seven Cooperative Principles that guide all of our decisions—from how we run the co-op, to how we engage with our local communities. Concern for community is the seventh principle, and it is one that all employees of Tri-County Electric value year round.

Electric cooperatives have a proud history of giving back. Tri-County Electric members can help us give back, too. Through the Operation Roundup program, members will be able to round up their energy bills to the next dollar amount, and the extra change goes toward helping those in need, right here in our community.

Tri-County Charity Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, has been established. It will be funded, in part, by the Operation Roundup program. In the upcoming months, our members will be educated on the opt-out Operation Roundup program that Tri-County Electric will implement. Your electric bill will be simply rounded up to the next whole dollar. The maximum yearly donation will only be $11.88 and the average member donation being only $6. This seems like a small amount, but if all of our members participate it can make a huge difference in our local communities.

We hope to kick this off late spring or early summer of 2020. Any questions you may have can be answered by contacting Carla Ausmus at 660-457-3733.

Remember, no matter how great or small the act, every time we give back, we strengthen our community. So take the time to give back not only this holiday season, but all year long. You’ll be glad you did and so will your community!
The power of Operation Roundup

It started as a simple idea 27 years ago at one co-op in South Carolina. Just round up the co-op member’s electric bill to the next dollar, and then use it to do good work in your community. Today, hundreds of electric co-ops throughout the country use this idea to help members and organizations close to home.

All co-ops adhere to the seven cooperative principles, including “Concern for Community.” The Operation Roundup program is the perfect embodiment of this core principle. The average co-op member donates $6 with a maximum possible contribution of $11.88 per year. This may not seem like a large amount, but when combined with all 4,800 members of Tri-County Electric, it adds up to make a significant impact.

Tri-County Charity Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, has been established by our board of directors here at Tri-County Electric. A board of volunteers that is different from the board of directors for the electric co-op will govern the foundation. This ensures that the decisions are made in the best interest of the community. Only organizations who are not-for-profit will be considered for funding. In the upcoming months, Tri-County Electric’s board of directors will work to form this new board.

In the future, a date to be announced, Tri-County Electric will kick off our opt-out Operation Roundup program. This program will always be voluntary, and at any time, members can change their minds about participating. All monies will be kept separate from the electric co-op. One hundred percent of all donations collected will be used locally in our communities with no administrative fees. Once folks see the good work the program does in their community, I am sure most will keep contributing!

Over the years, millions of dollars have been collected and distributed for a wide range of activities. This can include helping our local schools, assisting the local food pantry, or dozens of other humanitarian efforts that bring electric co-ops even closer to the communities we serve.

I hope that you will participate in this very valuable effort to assist programs and activities in our communities. If you have questions or would like more information on Operation Roundup, please contact Carla Ausmus at 660-457-3733.

August 2019 Board Report

At the August 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 (07/22/2019).
- The board reviewed and approved new memberships.
- The board reviewed and approved write-offs.
- The board reviewed and approved estate payouts.
- The board discussed the member fee schedule.
- The board discussed the Annual Meeting of Members location for 2020.
- The board received a safety report, a member services, and a communications report.
- The board received a report of operations.

August 2019 Comparative Operating Report

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<tr>
<th>August</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<td>Revenue</td>
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<td>Operating Costs</td>
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<td>2018</td>
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<td>Revenue</td>
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Visit Connections.coop or Call our office today!