

Engagement Matters

In 2012, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the premier trade association representing approximately 900 electric cooperatives in 47 states, released a report entitled, "The Electric Cooperative Purpose - A Compass for the 21st Century." The findings of the blue ribbon task force, comprised of a dozen co-op leaders from across the country, were that an electric cooperative's purpose is to, "Power communities and empower members to improve the quality of their lives."

Eastern Illini is a member of NRECA and firmly believes that you, our member/owners, need to be at the heart of everything we do. We are proud of the fact that we are different from investor-owned utilities, where the primary purpose is to generate profit for their stockholders. Many of those stockholders don't live in the communities served by the utility. While Eastern Illini must of course generate enough revenue to cover our costs, profit is not our primary motive. Serving you and your neighbors is our number one priority.

As the Electric Cooperative Purpose report noted, "Our story is about ordinary people that banded together to improve the quality of life by providing electricity to our community when no one else would do it." But that was 78 years ago. As we look to the future, we once again need your active participation in determining the future of our co-op.



**MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT**

Cooperatives enjoy the support of people from all walks of life. We operate in every type of business from agriculture, housing, finance, health care, technology, small business, food and many more. Co-ops can be found in the most rural areas, all the way to the most urban ones.

Eastern Illini welcomes your input on what we can do to ensure we are meeting your needs. Of course you can call us at 800-824-5102 at any time, but there are also other ways to get involved.

Make plans to attend your annual meeting on June 9 in Paxton. That's your chance to make your voice heard through your voting. We also have a Grassroots Advocacy Program designed for people that are passionate about helping preserve the great aspects of east central Illinois.

One thing you can absolutely count on from your locally owned electric cooperative: we will never be moving overseas like you hear of so many other companies doing. We will always be local – right here and ready to serve you.

That's why we're proud to be your local, member-owned connection to powerful solutions.

Sincerely,

Bob Hunzinger

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We want to be "Your Source"



**SmartHub is your online
and app portal to:**

**View and pay your bill
Report an outage
Track your electric use
Update your account info**

**Visit www.eiec.coop to
get started!**

Standby Generators

Our electric service is reliable, but we can't control Mother Nature. For those times, we are pleased to offer Briggs & Stratton automatic standby generators. For more information, please contact us at 800-824-5102.

Your Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative 

Sporting traditions since 1970

Green Acres Sportsman's Club offers over a thousand acres of diverse wildlife habitat and overwhelming beauty.

In 1969, several sportsmen from the Chicago area discovered a beautiful dairy farm as they were searching for a place to run their bird dogs. They were intrigued by the unusual amount of character of the 320 acres, especially compared to the surrounding farm land.

The next year, the club incorporated as Green Acres Sportsman's Club and began offering hunting memberships. The club planted grasses, food plots and trees, excavated several ponds, and added

a trap range and kennel facilities.

The land continued to mature into a natural hunting setting over the next 25 years as the club offered upland hunting, flighted mallard shooting, trap shooting, and hunting dog training.

In 1997, Dan and Cindy Ihrke took over the management of the club. Their dream was to enhance the property and add more amenities in order to make Green Acres a well-rounded sporting facility. Since then, they've added a clubhouse, a sporting clays course, and a mallard hunting marsh. They also expanded the facility to over 1,000 acres of hunting ground.

Cindy currently oversees the business side of Green Acres and manages the kitchen and banquet facilities.

Dan oversees the physical side of Green Acres, managing the club grounds, hunting land, sporting clays course, and kennel facility.

Dog Training

Raised by a veterinarian in a hunting family, Dan's exposure to animal science started early. He quickly developed a passion - and a talent - for training hunting dogs. He has developed quite a reputation, and Green Acres has become a national destination for those interested in having their hunting dogs trained.

Dan has developed his own unique training program called Gun Dog Success. This program



allows his trainers the ability to read each dog as an individual, recognizing his or her strengths and weaknesses and quickly bring each dog to their maximum potential.

They currently have 3 full time dog trainers and a 36-unit heated indoor/outdoor dog kennel.

By combining the dog training services with the hunting facilities, Green Acres has a natural, on-site habitat to train dogs in a variety of disciplines. Their goal is to produce efficient, disciplined hunting dogs that make good family members.

Hunting

Green Acres offers a wide variety of upland species, including pheasant, Hungarian Partridge, Bob White Quail, and Chukar Partridge. Also, during specified season, cottontail rabbit, woodcock, snipe, rail, and mourning dove may be harvested.

Green Acres offers many types of hunting, while traditional upland hunting has been their specialty for over 40 years. Beautiful, well managed land and great birds have helped build their great reputation.

Mallard hunting is an absolutely exciting shooting experience. There are no limits as you shoot wild flying ducks out of blinds on the flyway at the water's edge.

The driven hunt is a traditional British shoot that involves





Left: Green Acres' employees gather in the lodge.

Opposite page: Two hunters participate in a driven hunt. A British shoot that involves pass shooting, is one of the newer hunts offered at Green Acres.

Below: Wayne Kubek and his dog Leinen enjoyed a good day at Green Acres. Kubek has been a member at the sportsman's club for 40 years.

challenging pass shooting at upland game birds from designated shooting areas to provide a great sporting experience. During the driven hunt, pheasants are released from a concealed tower and fly high over the shooting pegs. Retrievers and handlers will be strategically located behind the guns to pick up the harvest. The hunt includes lunch and the chance at a "clean-up" hunt to end the day.

Simulated Game Shooting is an event where wing meets clay. Participants experience the excitement and traditions of the classic British driven shoot simulated with clay targets.

A 12-station, fully automated sporting clays course and five stand are also part of Green Acres diverse venue. Shooters may experience a wide variety of target presentations through a well groomed set of shooting environments.

Although Green Acres is primarily a members only club, they do offer introductory hunts for non-members that gives anyone a

chance to experience a hunt and the amenities of the facility.

With over 1,000 acres of prime upland hunting habitat, a beautiful full-service clubhouse, automated 5-stand and sporting clays range, simulated game shooting, a world-class mallard hunting flyway, and

a renowned gun dog and retriever training program, Green Acres Sportsman's Club strives to be one of the best hunting facilities in the state.

For more information, or to schedule your next hunt, contact them at 217-395-2588 or www.huntgreenacres.com.



Nominating petitions available soon

Nominating petitions for the June 9 board election will be available March 11.

Directors in Directorate Districts 1, 7, and 8 will be elected at Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting on June 9.

Incumbent director Harold Loy of Beaverville, District 1, has indicated he will seek reelection.

Kay Horsch of Fisher, District 7, and Herb Aden of Newman, District 8, will not seek reelection.

If you are interested in serving on Eastern Illini's Board of Directors, and you reside in Districts 1, 7 or 8, nominating petitions can be picked up beginning on Friday, March 11 at the cooperative's headquarters, located at 330 W. Ottawa, in Paxton.

Each member who desires to be elected to the board of directors must have a petition signed by not less than twenty-five (25) members of the cooperative.

Petitions must be filed at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, April 25, 2016.

Board of Directors

Eastern Illini's Board of Directors is made up of member/owners just like you. They are tasked with setting the policies and guidelines that our management team then carries out.

1st row, left to right: Herb Aden, Newman; Kay Horsch, Dewey; Brad Ludwig, Fithian; 2nd row: Tom Schlatter, Chatsworth; Kevin Moore, Hoopeston; Steve Meenen, Melvin; Jay Hageman, Fairmount; Harold Loy, Beaverville; and Bruce Ristow, Cissna Park.



Credentials Committee selected

The Credentials Committee will meet in April to determine the slate of candidates.

Doug Anderson of Donovan, Dean Day of Bement, Scotch Kurtenbach of Chatsworth, Tracy Layden of Hoopeston, and Gary Luth of Allerton have been appointed by the Board of Directors to serve a 1-year term on the Credentials Committee.

The Credentials Committee will meet at the cooperative's headquarters on Wednesday, April 27, 2016, to review the qualifications of all candidates who file nominating petitions to

determine their eligibility to serve as directors of the cooperative. The nominating process is conducted in accordance with the following provision of the Cooperative's bylaws, Article III,

Section 3.5: Nominations:

"Any member of the cooperative in good standing who desires to be elected to its Board of Directors may be nominated by petition signed by not less than twenty-five (25) members and filed with the Secretary of the Cooperative not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting of members. Nominations from the floor shall not be permitted. The Secretary of the Cooperative shall cause to be prepared and posted at the principal office of the

Cooperative at least thirty (30) days before the annual meeting, a list of the nominations for Directors thus filed with him or her."

"A specimen ballot marked "Ballot for Directors" containing the names and addresses of all nominees listed in the order determined by lot conducted by the Board of Directors of the Cooperative shall be printed in or mailed with the notice of the meeting. The Secretary shall also have printed in or mailed with the said notice of the meeting or separately not less than ten (10) days prior to said annual meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected and the district from which they are to be elected."

Don't forget your prescription discount

Your Co-op Connections Card comes with plenty of benefits.

The Co-op Connections Card is the free membership card that gives you discounts on everyday expenses. Everyone that receives electricity from Eastern Illini is eligible for this program.

One of the major saving opportunities you have is the prescription drug discount. Your Co-op Connections Card can save you 10% to 85% discount on prescription drugs at over 60,000 national and regional pharmacy chain stores—including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Target and many more.

How to get the discounts

Simply present your Co-op Connections Card when you are getting your prescriptions filled. Your pharmacist will compare the Co-op Connections price with other available offers to make sure you receive the lowest price.

If you need a new card, simply call our office at 800-824-5102



and we'll send you a new one. You can also download the Co-op Connections Card app for your smart phone, so you always have your virtual card with you.

Pharmacy discounts are not insurance and are not intended as a substitute for insurance. The discount is only available at participating pharmacies.

This plan provides discounts at certain healthcare providers for medical services. This plan does not make payments directly to the providers of medical services. The plan member is obligated to pay for all healthcare services but will receive a discount from those healthcare providers who have contracted with the discount plan organization. For more information, contact: Discount Medical Plan Organization: New Benefits, Ltd., Attn: Compliance Department, PO Box 671309, Dallas, TX 75367-1309.

HOW TO CLEAN REFRIGERATOR COILS

... AND WHY IT MATTERS!

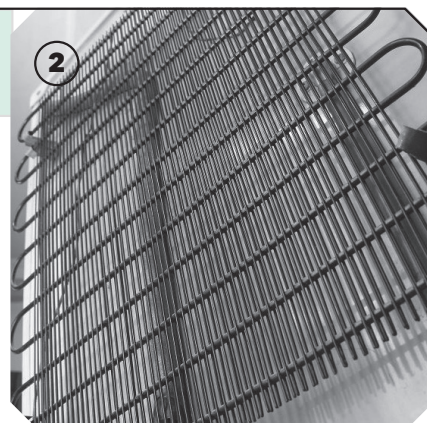
Your refrigerator is one of the largest, most-used appliances in your home. It requires only minimal maintenance - just simple cleaning of the condenser coils, which disperse heat. If the coils are covered with dust, gunk or pet hair, they cannot diffuse the heat properly and will not run efficiently. A bigger problem can result if the compressor burns out from having to run constantly because of the grimy coating. This can be an expensive problem. The bottom line? A minor investment in time once a year can save you cold cash down the line.



MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED

- Vacuum cleaner with hose
- Damp cloth

1. Locate the refrigerator's coil, a grid-like structure, or fan that will likely have a covering or grate protecting it. The coil is usually concealed behind the front toe kick or in the back. Some newer models have internal coils, so if you don't find them in the front or back, this may be the case with your fridge.
2. If the coil is in the back, slide the refrigerator away from the wall, removing the plug from the electrical outlet when possible. You may also need to disconnect the line to the water dispenser or icemaker to allow enough room to work.
3. Gently vacuum and clean the coil. Using the brush or crevice attachment, carefully vacuum the dust and dirt wherever you see it. If you have pulled the fridge out, vacuum and wipe down the sides and back of the fridge and the floor.
4. Once the floor is dry, plug in the refrigerator and rearrange the power cord and supply lines so they don't get a kink or stuck under the weight of the refrigerator. Slide the refrigerator back into place. Be sure to replace the toe kick panel if this was removed.





ALL OF OUR LINES ARE CUSTOMER SERVICE LINES.

Some deliver electricity. Others deliver information. All of them, though, must deliver on our main priority: to provide you and your family with safe and reliable electric service. And since we're a cooperative, you are much more than a customer...you are a member, and an owner of *your* electric cooperative. Find out more at www.eiec.coop.

YOUR SOURCE OF POWER. AND INFORMATION.



Eastern Illini
Electric
Cooperative