

PowerLines

November 2016

Happy Thanksgiving!

The chill in the morning air confirms that we are well into the fall season. The fields are mostly barren, as are the trees. By most accounts, it has been a bountiful harvest in east central Illinois. We also know it is November by the number of political ads that are plentiful in the various media (we will all be thankful when this election cycle is over).

We have devoted pages in this month's publication to our Veterans and voting. Thanks to our many veterans who have served and fought for our freedom and the rights of others around the world, those of us at the proper age have not just the right, but the privilege to be able to vote. We can cast a ballot for the candidates of our choice. This year, many of us may not be enthralled with our choices for President (they are certainly not the caliber of John F. Kennedy or Ronald Reagan for example), but we can have a voice in who becomes the next leader of our nation.

November is also a month that we celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. The time when family members make the trip back home and gather for a traditional meal and family fellowship. Let's all pray for safe travel and that family members appreciate and enjoy their time together.

At EIEC, we are also thankful for our members and employees. Our members recently had the

opportunity, via our annual survey, to let us know their views on how we are operating and doing business.

The results were overwhelmingly positive. Nearly 2/3 of you indicated you consider yourselves a member/owner as opposed to a customer. We like to hear that, and we certainly agree.



**MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT**

You scored us very highly on categories like "providing excellent customer service" and "having friendly and courteous employees."

For the four questions that comprise a benchmark national customer satisfaction index, you rated us very high at 89 out of 100! Thank you!

I would like to offer a special thank you to Steve Moore, who retired at the end of October as a serviceman. Steve has been a dedicated employee for over 35 years. He has been involved in maintaining, rebuilding, repairing, and constructing countless miles of line, in addition to providing excellent service and response time to our member/owners. We wish Steve and his wife Pam all the best as they enjoy a well-deserved retirement.

On behalf of our employees and our Board of Directors at Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, we wish you a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Bob Hunzinger

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**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!**

Holiday Schedule

Eastern Illini's offices will be closed on Nov. 11 in honor of Veteran's Day, and on Nov. 24 and 25 as our employees enjoy Thanksgiving with their families. As always, please call us any time at 800-824-5102 to report an outage.

Your Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative 

Let your voice be heard!

Taking an interest in both local and national elections is a key component of being engaged in our community.

Low voter turnout has been a topic of conversation for the last several election cycles. Since the 1960s, voter turnout during presidential elections has seen a steady decline.

In the 2016 primary election cycle, voter turnout in most states was only 21 to 30 percent, and this was a record year for primary voter turnout! In Illinois we saw a slightly higher voter turnout of 39 percent.

Some speculate the reason for the overall decline is because the average American is not as engaged in politics as they have been in the

past. And who can blame us really?

Often times, we may feel like candidates are not speaking to the issues we care about. Or perhaps we don't feel like we understand enough about the candidates' stances on the issues, or even the issues themselves.

But we can change this.

Here at Eastern Illini Electric Co-op, we want to see civic engagement in our rural communities increase. We want to give you what you need to make informed decisions about candidates at all levels of government, not just the presidential

race. And we want you to know more about the issues that could impact our local communities.

America's electric cooperatives are doing their part by informing co-op staff and members through Co-ops Vote, a non-partisan campaign with one simple goal: increase voter turnout at the polls this November.

By visiting vote.coop, you can learn about your candidates, access voter registration information and more. The future of rural economies depends on their ability to keep up with today's global economy, which is why access to broadband internet is a key topic of discussion this election season.

Just 55 percent of rural Americans have broadband at home. Quick access to information is crucial in finding a job, getting a better education and even gathering the information needed to make major health decisions. But there is a barrier: expensive costs.

With the right state and federal policies, broadband technology can become available to all rural Americans, allowing families and businesses to communicate in new and faster ways.

Electric cooperatives are already committed to providing affordable electricity to our communities, so helping provide affordable broadband access is a natural next step.

We encourage you to visit vote.coop and take the pledge to learn more about the issues that impact us locally. Let's work together to improve our communities by increasing voter turnout and changing our country....one vote at a time!



VOTE

**A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES**

WWW.VOTE.COOP

Common energy myths

How many of these energy myths have fooled you?

Eating carrots will greatly improve your eyesight, cracking your knuckles leads to arthritis, watching too much TV will harm your vision. We've all heard the old wives' tales, but did you know there are also many misconceptions about home energy use? Don't be fooled by common energy myths.

Myth: The higher the thermostat setting, the faster the home will heat (or cool).

Many people think that walking into a chilly room and raising the thermostat to 85 degrees will heat the room more quickly. This is not true.

Thermostats direct a home's HVAC system to heat or cool to a certain temperature. Drastically adjusting the thermostat setting will not make a difference in how quickly you feel warmer. The same is true for cooling. The Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78 degrees during summer months, and 68 degrees during winter months.

Myth: Opening the oven door to check on a dish doesn't really waste energy.

While it can be tempting to check the progress of that dish you're cooking in the oven, opening the oven door does waste energy.

Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, delaying the progress of your dish and, more importantly, costing you additional money. If you need to check the progress of a dish, try using the oven light instead.

Myth: Ceiling fans keep your home cool while you're away.

Believe it or not, many people think this is true. Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Ceiling fans circulate room air but do not change the temperature. A running ceiling fan in an empty room is only adding to your electricity use. Remember to turn fans off when you're away and reduce your energy use.

Myth: Reducing my energy use is too expensive.

Many consumers believe that reducing energy use requires expensive up-front costs, like purchasing new, more efficient appliances or construction upgrades to an older home.

But the truth is, consumers who make small changes to their energy efficiency habits, such as turning off lights when not in use, sealing air leaks and using a programmable thermostat, can see a reduction in energy consumption.

Remember, energy efficiency doesn't have to be difficult. Focus on small changes to save big.

We can help

Taking control of your electric use so you can have a bigger impact on lowering your bill can seem daunting. Here at Eastern Illini, we have trained professionals ready to help you get

started. At no charge to you, we'll come out to your home and give you the tips and tricks you need to take control of your energy use, get past these myths, and start saving!

Learn more about ways to save energy by visiting our website at www.eiec.coop. To schedule a free site visit, call us at 800-824-5102.



Cooking Efficiency Tip

Every time you open the oven door to check on a dish, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, increasing cooking time - and energy use!

Try using the oven light instead.

From the field to the beer mug

New Urbana brewery is using local crops from their co-op farm for some key ingredients.

Brothers Matt and Darin Riggs grew up on a small family farm in rural Champaign County. Though they both eventually moved away, they never lost the farming spirit and continued to look for ways to keep up the family heritage.

After graduating from the University of Illinois, the brothers began experimenting with their first home brewed beers while they were in the military. Matt's wife, Caroline, suggested he move to Germany (her home country) to learn more about brewing.

That led them to the Faust Brewery in the Bavarian city Miltenberg, Germany. Matt fell in the love with the brewing process and even convinced Darin to leave the Navy to join in.

After Darin's military career ended, he earned a degree in master brewing from the University of California - Davis.

Matt eventually earned his German brewmaster certification in Munich and both brothers began working for various breweries to hone their craft.

By 2015, they were ready to tie their new-found love of brewing beer with their families farming heritage. That fall, both Matt and Darin (and their wives), returned to Champaign County.

They moved into the old TK Wendl's site in Urbana and began brewing their own beer. The brewery contains a four vessel, 15-barrel brew house with ample fermentation capacity. They also have a taproom and beer garden that are both open to the public.

Their standard beers include an American Lager, a Red Lager, an India Pale Lager, and - staying true to their German schooling - a Hefeweizen.

They use corn from the family farm in some of the beer varieties, and they also grow some other ingredients in the area around the brewery. Darin noted, "The value added in the brewing process will help keep our family farm sustainable for the next generation."

The taproom is open on Thursday and Friday from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 10 p.m. You are welcome to bring your own food to the taproom, and they usually have food trucks in the parking lot. The taproom is located at their brewery at 1901 S. High Cross Road in Urbana.

For more information, please contact Riggs Beer Company at 217-718-5345.





LEFT: Riggs Beer Company uses corn from the family farm in some of their beers. The farm is on Eastern Illini Electric Co-op lines, and the Riggs' family has been members of the co-op for over 70 years.

ABOVE: Brothers Matt and Darin Riggs now operate the family brewery in Urbana.

RIGHT: The Riggs Beer Company taproom is open on Thursday and Friday from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 10 p.m.





A simple act of kindness

You see them in uniform, proudly marching in local parades. They're your neighbors and friends, and they're also veterans who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.

On Veterans Day, do something special for them. Visit them, and ask them about their time in the service. Consider buying them a meal, or just thank them for their service. Any simple act of kindness will go a long way.

Happy Veterans Day from Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative. We're your local, member-owned connection to powerful solutions. And we're always on for you.

