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# POWER SOURCE



**"Owned By Those We Serve"**

**December 2011 Vol. 15 No. 12**

## Family Christmas Traditions



Christmastime is full of family traditions. All families have some little something they look forward to around the holidays. Maybe it's something they've done all their lives, year after year. Maybe it's something young parents did when they were children and they want to revive that tradition in their own family unit. Maybe old traditions have run their course and there's a desire to start a new one.

Given this, I thought it would be appropriate to ask the employees at FEC about some of their Christmas traditions and see what fun and unique things they may do at home during this every special time of the year. Below are some that I found most interesting. You might even want to start one or more of these with your family!

1. Go out to eat for breakfast on Christmas Eve with your family. Either pick your favorite breakfast restaurant to go to or cook up your kid's favorite breakfast!
2. Give each child and spouse a pair of pajamas to open up on Christmas Eve. These will be great for Christmas morning pictures (this was mine).
3. Let each child select a new ornament for the tree. Write you child's name and date on the ornament box or the ornament itself. It's neat to see each year how the ornaments change as they grow up and their interests change. When it is time for them to move and start their own family, they will have a good start on ornaments for their family tree!
4. Make cookies for Santa on Christmas Eve with your children and your spouse. This will be something that your kids will look forward to every year and remember all their lives.
5. Have a wrapping party. Since it's hard to wrap Christmas presents at home because your family members are always there, send the kids out to the movies with friends, invite some of your friends over and tell them to bring their gifts, wrapping paper, and some snacks. Have a fun filled time wrapping all your gifts together.
6. Have a Secret Santa Pal. Choose one friend throughout the month of December to surprise with numerous gifts. Gifts don't have to be big or expensive, just fun and thoughtful.



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*Manager's Message...*

Lance Adkins, GM

**This Christmas... Count Your Blessings**

**A**s I write this article, an old familiar song keeps running through my head, a Bing Crosby tune, "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas." It's snowing outside, most of the Cooperative's service area is covered by a blanket of snow, with more expected. I'm certainly thankful for the moisture and for the fact that it is falling as snow rather than freezing fog or freezing rain. Just outside the window a small flock of robins are waiting out the storm in a leafless tree. They fly in turns to a small puddle of melted snow for a drink of water. I

wonder what they will find to eat and then begin to reflect on the many blessings I have received this past year and how much I have to be thankful for.

As I watch the robins, a line-crew leaves the office to make repairs to a line damaged when a car struck a pole, the temperature is below zero with wind-chill and it's snowing. I'd guess the last thing on the minds of the line-crew is a Bing Crosby song or Christmas. I'm thankful for the dedicated, hard-working employees who respond day or night, rain or shine to keep the lights on, as well as those who work behind the scenes in the office. I recall that I do not let them know often enough just how much I appreciate them.

I'm thankful for the men and women in the armed forces standing watch, both here and abroad, to keep us safe. My son-in-law is one of them. He is in the Army and has completed one tour in Iraq. He is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan sometime next year. I see folks from Cannon AFB in stores around town - some are members of Farmers' Electric. Many will spend the holidays far from home, separated from family. As a nation we ask a lot from these folks and their families. I recall that I have told very few just how much I appreciate their commitment and service.

I'm thankful for family. My kids are grown and gone now, having become respectful and responsible adults themselves. I'm thankful my wife is still tolerant of my faults. While I do not crave the latest electronic gizmo available and I refuse to be associated with Facebook, I am thankful that technology allows me to see and speak to my five-year-old grandson using Skype even though he lives far away. Long-time friends of ours lost their son suddenly in a tragic accident recently. This reminded me just how quickly our lives can change and a loved one taken from us. I recall, too, that I do not let family and friends know often enough just how much I love and appreciate them.

As I reflect on the many things I have to be thankful for and then think about all the problems and troubles others are facing in our world, I can't help but feel a little selfish. I am aware that many in our area are struggling in the current economy. Those in agriculture are challenged by the additional pressures of continuing drought. My challenge to you this season of thanksgiving and Christmas and throughout the next year: Look for a way to assist those who are struggling. Go out of your way to thank those around you each day who work to make your community a great place to live. When you see someone in uniform, make it a point to thank them for their service. Finally, and most importantly, make the time to spend quality time with family and friends as often as you can.

Thank you too, for the support and encouragement you give those who work for you here at Farmers' Electric! Merry Christmas.

**Board of Trustees:****Mike West***President***George Dodge***Vice President***Ernest Riley***Secretary-Treasurer***Paul Quintana***Trustee***Pat Woods***Trustee***Billy Tate***Trustee***Donnie Bidegain***Trustee***General Manager:****Lance R. Adkins****POWER SOURCE**

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## Go Green Through FEC's Renewable Energy Option

Because a number of residential and commercial members have expressed an interest in the availability of renewable energy or green power, Farmers' Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce that we are now offering our members the opportunity to be a part of a **voluntary** renewable energy option. There are two levels of participation in our Renewable Energy Rate Rider Program. Option one: the purchase of 100 kWh blocks, each month (number of blocks determined by the member). Option two: the purchase of 100% of a member's monthly energy consumption. Currently, the energy charge for a 100 kWh block is \$0.65. The energy charge, when contracting for 100% of a member's monthly usage, is \$0.005/kWh.



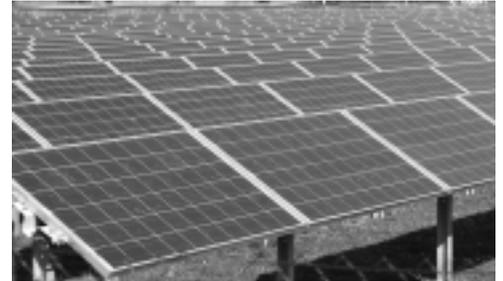
The Renewable Energy Rate Rider is a premium charge and will be in addition to any charges assessed under the member's standard retail service rate tariff. Funds collected through the Rate Rider will be used

to purchase Renewable Energy Credits (REC). These RECs are certified to be derived from energy produced from wind, solar, biomass, or other sources of renewable energy.

If someone decides to sign up and then wants to quit participating in the Renewable Energy Program, they may terminate the contract under this Rate Rider by giving the Cooperative at least thirty (30) days prior written notice. After receiving such notice, the Cooperative will terminate billing under this Rate Rider effective with, or prior to, the member's next meter read date.

If a member does not want to participate in this Renewable Energy Program, their service and/or bill will not be affected.

For more information about this program, please go to our website, [www.fecnm.org](http://www.fecnm.org) or simply call and ask to speak to someone in our Member Services Department.



### Attention

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2011. To avoid potential disconnection of services please contact the Human Services Department for eligibility information for the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at 800-283-4465. Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2011, through March 15, 2012, if you qualify for LIHEAP and have no past due amount or are making the agreed upon payments.

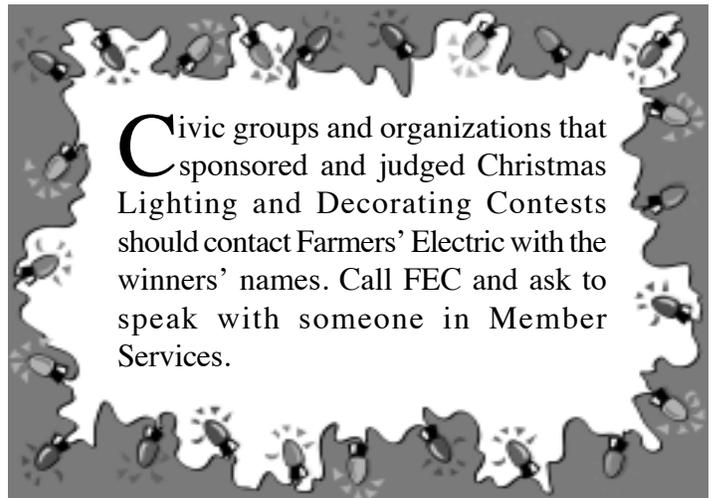
### Atención

La protección del interruptor de invierno empieza el 15 de noviembre de 2011. Para evitar desconexión potencial de servicios contacta por favor al Humano Atiende al Departamento para la información de elegibilidad para los Ingresos Bajos que Calientan Programa de Ayuda de Energía (LIHEAP) en 800-283-4465. Su servicio no será desconectado del 15 de noviembre de 2011, por el 15 de marzo de 2012, si califica para LIHEAP y tiene no cantidad debida pasada ni hace el aceptó pagos.

Contest rules being finalized for the hybrid heat pump water heater give-a-way! Contest will begin in January, 2012 with the winner being announced in the April, 2012 issue of the *Power Source*. Please stay tuned for more important contest details.



Civic groups and organizations that sponsored and judged Christmas Lighting and Decorating Contests should contact Farmers' Electric with the winners' names. Call FEC and ask to speak with someone in Member Services.



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7. Watch Christmas movies together on the nights leading up to Christmas. Here are a few must sees: Christmas Vacation, Polar Express, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, A Charlie Brown Christmas, Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street (both old and new versions), A Christmas Story, The Nativity Story, White Christmas, Home Alone, Die Hard, The Santa Clause, and of course, It's a Wonderful Life.
8. Give each child and spouse an ornament to open on Christmas Eve. Each ornament should represent something that happened during the year or a place the person traveled to.
9. Have a cookie swap party. This is a great way to fellowship with friends while enjoying numerous varieties of cookies.
10. Read the Christmas story and narrate the story with the nativity scene people. Example: Each figure is wrapped and placed in a box – and the box is passed around with everyone selecting a piece until all are gone. The Christmas story is read and when your character is called, you place it where it belongs (my personal favorite).

Traditions are great around Christmastime because they bond the family unit, they give everyone something special to look forward to, and they invite a shared past that children can pass on to future generations. Merry Christmas!

# Merry Christmas!



**On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the entire staff of Farmers' Electric Cooperative, "Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years!"**

Farmers' Electric Cooperative offices will be closed December 23rd and 26th and January 2nd in observance of the holidays.

**"Owned By Those We Serve"**



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