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The Tennessee Magazine

July 2010

Aging Well
Fine Farmstead Cheese

Best of Tennessee
Vote for Your Favorites Now

History for Kids:
Tennessee Ties to Independence

Plum-Good Recipes





Make your voice heard on climate-change legislation

With prospective federal policies to address climate change and other environmental issues almost certain to increase electricity costs, Gibson Electric Membership Corporation is working diligently to keep your electric bills affordable.

"Gibson EMC is focused on the cost of electric power, and we are doing everything we can to ensure it remains affordable," Gibson EMC President and CEO Dan Rodamaker says.

"When President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order creating the Rural Electrification Administration 75 years ago, he also created a remarkable partnership between the federal government and the nation's citizens," Rodamaker adds. "Together, they built an incredible electric infrastructure that has powered rural America and enriched rural Americans' quality of life."

While this effort to make affordable electricity available has been a true success story, not all government initiatives


Our Energy, Our Future
 A Dialogue With America



Dan Rodamaker,
Gibson EMC
President and CEO

produce such positive results, Rodamaker explains. For example, in the 1970s, government policies required switching from natural gas to other fuels, primarily coal, and the Three Mile Island nuclear accident occurred. Both resulted in new and expensive regulations that also drove construction of coal-based plants. Transition costs from both also resulted in significant increases in electric bills.

"Today's climate change-related policy shifts will be expensive, too," Rodamaker says. "Gibson EMC has stepped up to challenges in the past, and I know that we will capably meet this challenge, too. But we need your help in relaying to Congress just how important it is to keep climate-change legislation fair, affordable and technologically achievable."

To make your voice heard, join the Our Energy, Our Future grassroots awareness campaign at www.ourenergy.coop.

Know what's below: **CALL** before you **DIG**

Whether it's a deck addition or a landscaping masterpiece, summer is a great time for outdoor improvement projects.

But if your planned projects include digging, like planting a tree or bringing in a backhoe for trench work, you'll need to wait a few days so the job can be done safely. Underground utilities such as buried gas, water and electric lines can be a shovel thrust away from turning a summer project into a disaster.

To find out where utility lines run on your property, dial 811 a few days before you want to dig. Your call will be routed to a local "one-call" center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing. Affected local utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes and cables with flags or marking paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.



Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of "call before you dig" services, most don't take advantage of the service. A national survey showed that only 33 percent of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects.

Although light gardening typically doesn't call for deep digging, other seemingly simple tasks like planting shrubs or installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines. A severed line can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

There's no need to assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. The 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information, visit www.call811.com.

— Sources: Common Ground Alliance, SafeElectricity.org



Crabb Revival, the featured entertainment at this year's annual meeting, incorporates Crabb Family Band traditions with a new sound of their own.

Gibson EMC annual meeting offers entertainment, health fair, door prizes, children's activities, energy exhibits, lunch — and more

We hope you plan to join us for Gibson Electric Membership Corporation's annual meeting on Saturday, Aug. 7, at Crockett County High School, 2014 Highway 88, in Alamo.

"The annual meeting is a great opportunity for those of us at Gibson EMC to visit with you, our customer-owners, and for you to participate in your cooperative's business meeting," says Gibson EMC President and CEO Dan Rodamaker.

We have activities planned for the whole family. Here's a look at what we've lined up ...

■ **8 a.m.:** Registration begins. Every registered customer-owner attending the annual meeting receives a gift.

■ **Throughout the morning:** A health fair will offer opportunities for health screening. Our energy exhibits will include information on Gibson EMC's programs and services, with an emphasis on how you can conserve energy and save on your electric bill. Door prizes also will be given away. Children's activities will include face-painting, inflatable jumpers, a clown and costume character Louie the Lightning Bug.

■ **9:15 a.m.:** Artist and

musician Scott Myatt will please the crowd with ballads, folk and blues music. Scott regularly performs at venues in the Jackson area and is an art teacher at Humboldt High School.

■ **10 a.m.:** Crabb Revival, this year's featured entertainment, includes former members of the Grammy-nominated, Dove Award-winning Crabb Family Band. Crabb Revival incorporates Crabb Family traditions with a sound also appreciated by a younger audience. This talented group has

come into its own with a Dove Award nomination, a Breakthrough Artist Award, Gospel Music Channel's Genre Winner for 2008 Album of the Year and other individual award nominations. Learn more at www.crabbrevival.net.

■ **10:30 a.m.:** Registration closes.

■ **11 a.m.:** The annual cooperative business meeting will provide an update on Gibson EMC's activities and a financial report.

■ **11:30 a.m.:** Free sack lunches of a barbecue sandwich or hot dog, potato chips and a soft drink or bottle of water are available.

Don't miss the fun; join us on Saturday, Aug. 7!

Annual Meeting Official Notice

Saturday, Aug. 7, 2010, at Crockett County High School, 2014 Highway 88, Alamo

Registration will begin at 8 a.m., and the business meeting will begin at 11 a.m., at which time the following actions will take place:

1. Report of officers, trustees and committees.
2. Any unfinished or new business.

If you are a member with special needs and you plan to attend this meeting, please contact the cooperative at 731-855-4740, ext. 1611, by Aug. 4 so we can try to accommodate you.

Sincerely,

Don Leathers, Secretary-Treasurer, Board of Trustees



Tyler Porter, second from left, accepts the 2010 TVA Distributors Scholarship from Vice President of Operations Barry Smith, second from right. With them are Tyler's parents, Sherry and Billy Porter.

Porter wins scholarship

Tyler Porter of Trenton recently was awarded the prestigious TVA Power Distributors Scholarship. The scholarship is sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Authority and electric power distributors throughout the Tennessee Valley.

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the TVA Power Distributors Scholarship," says Tyler. "It is an honor to have been selected."

"High-caliber students apply for this scholarship, so securing it is quite an accomplishment," says Dan Rodamaker, Gibson Electric Membership Corporation President and CEO. "We are very happy for Tyler and his family, and we know that he will prove to be a success."

Tyler, a graduate of Peabody High School, will attend Vanderbilt University in the fall and is currently declaring a premedical major. He is the son of Billy and Sherry Porter. Billy, Gibson EMC's Safety Coordinator, has worked at Gibson EMC for two decades.



Learning about cooperative jobs

Mike Davis, far right, Gibson Electric Membership Corporation Field Engineer, shares information about his job with Shane Barnes, left, and Jonathan King. Shane is the son of Gibson EMC Dispatcher Dave Barnes. The two Crockett County Middle School eighth-graders recently spent time at Gibson EMC as part of a job-shadowing program.

Co-op leaders meet with U.S. legislators

Gibson Electric Membership Corporation Board Member Rana Buchanan recently participated in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Legislative Conference and legislative visits in Washington, D.C.

Representing 42 million cooperative owners, Buchanan and other cooperative leaders from across the country talked to legislators about the need to avoid Environmental Protection Agency regulation of carbon under the Clean Air Act, energy-efficiency legislation and opportunities, Rural Utilities Service funding and the value electric cooperatives provide their customer-owners.

In his address to the cooperative leadership, Glenn English, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association CEO, emphasized the urgent need for cooperative customer-owners to join their cooperative leadership in communicating with legislators regarding climate-change legislation.

Specifically, English stressed the need to support legislative proposals that stop the use of the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gasses from stationary sources and that ensure Congress establishes climate-change policies, through new legislation, that keep electric bills affordable.

You can help ensure affordable electricity for your future by going to www.ourenergy.coop and making your voice heard.



Rana Buchanan,
Gibson EMC
Board Member



Glenn English,
National Rural
Electric Cooperative
Association CEO



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Heat from sunlight coming through windows and hitting the roof can increase air-conditioner use significantly. Use shade trees and shrubs in landscaping design to reduce cooling costs. Block heat in the summer — but let it through in the winter — with deciduous trees, which will lose their leaves in the winter.

— Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Co-op innovation shines with renewable energy

Over their 75-year histories, electric cooperatives have made a name for themselves as trailblazers and innovators. For example, co-ops affordably ran power lines to parts of rural America when investor-owned utilities did not see it as profitable. Co-ops also began promoting energy efficiency long before it became mainstream.

Today, co-ops are finding innovative ways to use renewable energy generation while keeping electricity affordable. More than 80 percent of the nation's 900-plus electric co-ops provide electricity produced by wind, solar, hydro, geothermal, biomass (like landfill gas, livestock waste, timber byproducts and crop residue) and other "green power" sources. Co-ops today receive 11 percent of their power requirements from renewable sources, compared to 9 percent for electric utilities as a whole.

Government mandates are requiring that more of the electricity being produced comes from renewable sources, which are typically more expensive than traditional sources like coal- and natural gas-fired power plants.

Green Power Switch: Power for future generations

Gibson Electric Membership Corporation, in partnership with the Tennessee Valley Authority, offers its members the Green Power Switch Program.

Residential customers can help us protect the environment by buying green power in 150-kilowatt-hour blocks. Each block you purchase will add \$4 to your monthly electric bill. You can sign up online at www.gibsonemc.com or visit any Gibson EMC customer service center. When you make the Green Power Switch, we'll send you a free *energy right* solutions Home *e*-evaluation to get you started on the green track.

Commercial and industrial customers can purchase green power, too. Blocks vary by business size. Go to www.gibsonemc.com for more information.

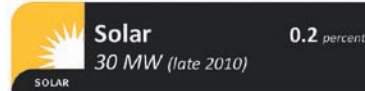
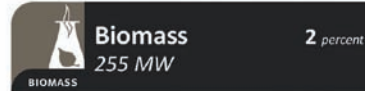
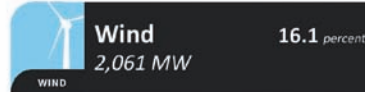
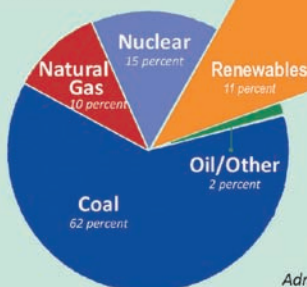
Green Power Switch dollars go directly back into the renewable generation program to advance the technology and increase the amount of electricity generated from cleaner sources. Just think of Green Power Switch as power generated for future generations.

Public Power Districts and Electric Cooperatives Focus on Renewable Energy

Public power districts and electric cooperatives use a diverse mix of fuels to supply members with safe, reliable, and affordable power.

Renewable resources provide 11 percent of cooperative power needs nationwide, as compared to 9 percent for the nation's entire electric utility sector.

Public Power District and Electric Co-op Power Mix:



Source: NRECA, Rural Utilities Service/U.S. Energy Information Administration 2008 Data, Represents all U.S. electric cooperatives.



10 HOT TIPS FOR GREEN SUMMER COOKING

Kee your cool this summer when preparing meals. You can save money and reduce your carbon footprint with these 10 easy tips for going green when cooking summer meals (and year-round, for that matter).

- Cook outdoors when possible to reduce the load on your air conditioner. Try a solar cooker or oven. Solar cookers and ovens are by far the most energy-efficient cooking appliances. They require no fuel, reduce unwanted summer heat in your home by taking cooking outside and can accommodate any food a slow cooker can. Some solar ovens can reach 500 degrees. To learn more, visit www.solarcooking.org.

- Toaster ovens, convection ovens

and slow cookers get the job done with less energy than conventional stovetops or ovens, especially when preparing smaller meals.

- Use as small a pan, as little water and as little preheating time as possible.

- Bake in glass or ceramic ovenware instead of metal. You can turn the temperature down by 25 degrees, and foods will cook in the same amount of time.

- Avoid thawing food in the microwave. Thawing food in the fridge is far more energy-efficient, contributes to the fridge's cooling and is safer than thawing food on the countertop or in the sink.

- Don't open the door and peek in the oven. Use the oven window instead!

- Clean burner pans (the pans under

the burners that catch grease) regularly. They'll more effectively reflect heat to the cookware. Dirty burner pans absorb heat and reduce efficiency.

- Use flat-bottom cookware that rests evenly on the surface of electric coil burners and solid-disk or radiant elements under smooth-top ceramic glass.

- Use residual heat. Turn the stove or oven off before cooking is done to allow cooking to continue while reducing energy use. An electric burner element, since it remains hot, can be turned off two minutes before removing the cookware. Ovens can be turned off 20 minutes before cooking is done.

- Consider substituting one or more stovetop burners with an induction cooker. The typical efficiency of an induction cooker is 84 percent, while gas stovetops are 40-percent efficient, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. What's more, induction cookers (which require magnetic cookware such as cast iron or enameled steel) produce as much heat as gas and are less costly to operate than a conventional electric burner. Visit www.theinductionsite.com to learn more.

Try this! Stuffed Red Potatoes with Caramelized Onions

12 small red potatoes
1½ cups yellow onions, julienned
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 heaping tablespoon sour cream
Salt and black pepper to taste

Place potatoes in a large pot of salted water. Bring to a boil and cook 25 minutes or until tender. Drain and cool completely.

Meanwhile, cook onions in oil in a sauté pan over medium heat, stirring occa-



sionally, for 20 minutes or until caramelized.

Cut potatoes in half and scoop out pulp with a melon baller, leaving a sturdy wall. Mash potato pulp and fold in sour cream, salt and pep-

per. Fill potatoes with mixture and top with onions.

Serve at room temperature.

Source: www.picktnproducts.org

