

# Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Rock Rapids ■ October 2024

Phone : 712-472-2506 or 1-800-658-3976 ~ Website : [www.lyonrec.coop](http://www.lyonrec.coop)  
Office Hours : Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## REMINDERS

If you are moving, please notify your cooperative when you move and inform the new owner to get signed up for service.

## Celebrate Your Electric Cooperative During October

Did you know that electric cooperatives follow a business model that's different from most utilities, stores and organizations?

The cooperative business model means, in part, that your utility belongs to you—the consumer who buys electricity from it. Because each consumer of the utility is also an owner—or a member—each consumer has a say in the way the cooperative operates.

For example, your cooperative has a Board of Directors. Each of its members is also a member-owner (like you), and each is elected by the other member-owners, often during an annual meeting, where you can learn about what your utility is doing and offer your input to its leaders.

If you would like to serve on the Board of Directors, you



can run for a seat, and your neighbors and friends will be the ones casting votes for you.

Electric cooperatives have been lighting up rural homes for nearly 90 years. In October, National Cooperative Month gives anyone whose electricity comes from a cooperative a reason to celebrate.



## Unclaimed Patronage Dividends

Are you a friend or family member of any of the below past/present REC Members? We need your help getting in contact with them for unclaimed patronage dividends. These members or authorized representatives should contact REC at 712-472-2506 before October 31st. Any patronage dividends unclaimed after this date will be retained in accordance with Iowa Law and Board Policy.

Ronald Rath  
Timothy Kroger  
James Skoglund  
Tom Bendt

Michael R Estep  
Linda DeJong  
Dan Harris  
Fred Gorwill

Edward P Bruns  
Nathan Thielvoldt



## Avoid Turning On Heat Until Necessary

Bundling up in a thick sweater and dressing in layers are two great ways to keep warm indoors during the month or two when it's starting to get chilly outdoors but it's not quite cold enough to turn the heat on.

In fact, many households wait until November or later to turn the heat on in an effort to save money on heating and to save energy, which is good for the environment.

If you'd like to try holding off on the heat until a bit later than usual, try these tips for keeping warm indoors:

- ▶ Cover the base of doors leading to the outdoors so the cold air can't sneak in underneath. Called draft dodgers, these are tubes filled with sand, fabric or newspapers. You can make your own or find cute ones at home stores.

- ▶ Run ceiling fans, but switch the direction of the spin. To distribute warm air—which rises—around the room, the blades should rotate clockwise.
- ▶ Open curtains and blinds on sunny days so warm sunrays can heat up your rooms. Close them at bedtime to keep drafts out of the house.
- ▶ If your home isn't carpeted, scatter throw rugs in the rooms you use most.
- ▶ Apply weather-stripping around windows to keep chilly air from getting inside.
- ▶ Throw an extra blanket on each bed in the house.
- ▶ Gather the family all in one room in the evenings to watch TV, read or play games, and run a space heater only in that room if needed



## Use Space Heaters Safely

An electric space heater can be just the thing to warm up a particularly cool spot in your home. Wherever you place it, though, use caution.

Space heaters are the culprits in around 25 percent of home-heating fires—and 74 percent of them kill someone, says the National Fire Protection Association.

Here are some space-heater safety tips:

- ▶ Plug your bathroom space heater into a ground-fault circuit interrupter.
- ▶ Don't hide the electric cord under a rug or carpet. The cord could overheat and cause a fire.
- ▶ Leave three feet of space between the heater and furniture and even walls. Keep it away from anything flammable.
- ▶ Never plug a space heater into an extension cord.

# Stop Heat Loss With Heavy Drapes, Blinds

Window treatments do more than make your room beautiful and give your family privacy from prying eyes. They're also an energy-efficient tool to prevent heat from escaping your home when it's cold outside.

- ▶ Seal drapery edges to the sides of windows using magnetic tape or Velcro.
- ▶ Use a closed cornice board at the top of window coverings. The board will keep heat from entering the top of draperies and pushing cold air into the room.
- ▶ Make or buy curtain liners to place in between the drapes and the window.
- ▶ Thermal shades will help insulate your home and are easy to make with batting fibers or fiberfill.
- ▶ Snug-fitting roller shades, mounted within the shade's frame, can stop heat loss.
- ▶ Open your drapes on sunny winter days to invite the sun's warm rays indoors. Close them at dark when the temperature drops.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you recently made or plan to make energy efficiency upgrades to your home, you may be eligible for federal tax credits. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 empowers homeowners to save up to \$3,000 annually to lower the cost of efficiency upgrades by up to 30%. A few upgrades covered through the IRA include new exterior doors, windows, insulation, heating/cooling equipment and other major appliances. If you have completed or are considering an efficiency upgrade, visit [www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits](http://www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits) to learn if you qualify for tax credits.

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)

# Don't Scare Pets on Fright Night

It's all in good fun when your Halloween decorations jump out to scare the kids. But for your pets, who don't understand what's happening, Fright Night can be unnecessarily frightening.

As you transform your usually quiet home into something spookier with lights and decorations, keep your pets in mind—and keep them safe from trick-or-treaters and things that go bump in the night.

Here are some tips to keep your pets safe and calm during this scary season:

- ▶ Hang strings of lights, wires and cords away from the path trick-or-treaters will take to your door so the youngsters—and your pets—won't step on them. Curious pets might try chewing or eating decorative lights, can suffer a life-threatening electric shock or can risk ingesting shards of glass. Glass can damage your pet's mouth and internal organs.
- ▶ Save the candy for the kids. Chocolate can kill your dog or cat. It's toxic to them. Keep candy wrappers out of the way also, as aluminum foil and cellophane can cause vomiting and intestinal blockages.
- ▶ A jack-o-lantern may look like a yummy treat to a pet, but after sitting outside for a few days, yours will probably grow bacteria that could cause intestinal inflammation, upset stomach and diarrhea in a pet that nibbles on it.
- ▶ Avoid lighting candles in any area your pet might walk into. Excited pets can knock them over. Plus, cat hair will catch on fire in a split second.
- ▶ Save the cute costumes for your kids. On a pet, a costume can be restricting and make it hard to hear and see.
- ▶ Doorbells and screaming children are especially frightening to some animals, so keep them inside in a quiet, secure area.

▶ If you have a black cat, do not let it roam outdoors during Halloween week. Too many black cats—an icon of Halloween—have become the victims of pranksters and worse.

## Operating Statistics

	AUGUST	
	2023	2024
KWH Purchased	11,849,122	12,051,498
KWH Sold	11,638,913	11,446,544
Percentage of Line Loss (Year to Date)	2.84%	3.15%
Total Demand	22,050 KW	22,007 KW
Average Farm Consumption	3,379 KWH	3,188 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$364.30	\$362.57
Income Per Mile	\$1,303.00	\$1,320.09
Expenses Per Mile	\$1,250.27	\$1,309.60
Miles Energized	872.86	885.19
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month)	6.11¢	6.15¢

# Cybersecurity Tips for a Safer Digital World

By Abby Berry

Did you know the average household with internet access owns about 17 connected devices? That figure covers a wide range of electronics, including smart phones, computers, streaming devices, smart speakers, home assistants and more. Given our increasing reliance on internet-connected technologies, the likelihood of new cyber threats is ever-present.

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative is deeply committed to ensuring our local system is safe and secure. We routinely monitor and manage cyber risks, and we work together with other co-ops to share the latest advancements in cybersecurity measures that make us stronger. But you can help, too.

When we all work together to stay safe online, we lower the risk of cyber threats to our systems, online accounts and sensitive data.

October is National Cybersecurity Month, and while good cyber hygiene should be practiced year-round, we'd like to share a few cybersecurity tips to help you bolster your online safety.

- ▶ Learn how to spot and report phishing attempts. Phishing occurs when criminals use phony emails, direct messages or other types of digital communications that lure you to click a bad link or

download a malicious attachment. If you receive a suspicious email or message that includes urgent language, offers that seem too good to be true, generic greetings, poor grammar or an unusual sender address, it could be a phishing attempt. If you spot one, report it as soon as possible—and don't forget to block the sender. (If you receive a suspicious work email, report it to the appropriate IT contact. Suspicious messages that are delivered to your personal email or social media accounts can also be reported.)

- ▶ Create strong, unique passwords. When it comes to passwords, remember that length trumps complexity. Strong passwords contain at least 12 characters and include a mix of letters, numbers and symbols. Create unique passwords for each online account you manage and use phrases you can easily remember.
- ▶ Enable multi-factor authentication when available. Multi-factor authentication (also known as 2-factor authentication) adds an extra layer of security to your online accounts. These extra security steps can include facial recognition, fingerprint access, or one-time codes sent to your email or phone.
- ▶ Update software regularly. Software and internet-connected devices, including personal computers,

smartphones and tablets, should always be current on updates to reduce the risk of infection from ransomware and malware. When possible, configure devices to automatically update or notify you when an update is available.

Let's all do our part to stay cyber smart and create a safer digital world for all. Visit [staysafeonline.org](https://staysafeonline.org) to learn about additional cybersecurity tips.

## October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Let's work together to build a safer digital world. Whether at home, work or school, we can increase our online safety with the following tips.

- 🔒 Recognize and report phishing attempts.
- 🔒 Use strong, unique passwords.
- 🔒 Enable multi-factor authentication.
- 🔒 Update software regularly.

### Nondiscrimination Statement

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA containing all the information requested in the form. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; by fax (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or by Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)