



# TRI-COUNTY

## Electric Cooperative, Inc.

" A Commitment to Service and Savings "

## HAPPY 232<sup>Nd</sup> BIRTHDAY AMERICA



There is something about the Fourth of July which signals that summer has officially started. Yes we know that it actually started on June 21, and the thermometer would support that summer started around the first of May. Perhaps it's because the July fourth holiday is the first national holiday after the start of summer. The kids are out of school and families are planning vacations and building memories. If your family is planning a vacation we wanted to offer a few tips that will allow you to save some money on your electric bill.

### VACATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

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Make sure you either turn off the air conditioning or at least raise the thermostat setting to 85 degrees or above and turn off all fans. Block the sun by closing blinds or drapes on windows that get direct sunlight. This will reduce the run time on the unit but keep the home cool enough so plants can survive. It is also a good idea to turn off the water heater and even the water. A busted hose on a washing machine or ice machine can make an awful mess. It's always good planning to find someone who will come by every day and pick up the mail and newspapers. A quick inspection of the residence should include checking the power supply and refrigerators and freezers to make sure everything is working properly. Returning home from vacation and finding a refrigerator or freezer that stopped working shortly after you left the house is never a good welcome home sign.

### Other ways to conserve energy around the home or business include:

Turn off all unnecessary lights, appliances and electronic equipment. Update light fixtures with high efficiency lighting that runs longer, uses less electricity and contributes considerably less heat to the living area.

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When at home, close blinds and drapes that get direct sun, set air conditioning thermostats to 78 degrees or higher, and use fans to cool occupied rooms. Using fans in unoccupied rooms only increases energy use so avoid using them unless people are present. Moving air makes you more comfortable by improving the efficiency of your body's cooling system. It does not impact room temperature.

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Avoid opening refrigerators and freezers more than necessary. Use microwave oven for cooking instead of an electric range or oven.

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Set swimming pool pumps to run early in the morning or late in the evening instead of the afternoon between 3:00 to 7:00 PM. Avoid using laundry equipment and hot water for the same time period. Air conditioning demands are at their highest during this period due to the number of people returning home and lowering thermostat settings. By shifting the time you are using electricity you can help your cooperative reduce the cost for electric service during the heat of the day.

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Collectively we can all make a difference!

July 2008 Member Information Bulletin

# If Your AC Unit Can't Breathe, It Can't Work Efficiently!

With summer officially on the calendar, it's important to make sure that your air conditioning equipment is operating at peak performance. A dirty outdoor coil is a good way to run up operating costs and repair bills. Make it a habit to check the surface of your outdoor condenser coil and make sure it is clean and moving plenty of air across the coil. Check coil for grass clippings, leaves, spider webs, cottonwood fibers and those pesky plastic shopping bags that blow around the yard and get sucked up into the air-conditioning coil.

If the coil looks dirty, disconnect the power and rinse the coil with a garden hose. If it is extremely dirty, it might be necessary to use a soft brush and mild liquid dishwashing soap. Use care not to bend the coil fins when cleaning. Once the coil surface is clean, you can reconnect the power and the unit is ready to run.



Keeping the outdoor compressor free of dirt grass and other obstructions is important to reduce operating cost and prevent equipment failure.

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If your equipment has a protective cover around the coil it can still be inspected by looking through the louvers. Cleaning may require the removal of the protective cabinet to gain access to the coil surface. On some units the cabinet is fairly easy to remove requiring nothing more than a nut driver and a bowl to keep track of the metal screws. With some manufacturers a professional service call may be required because the cabinet walls support the fan assembly requiring more tools and expertise when disassembling.

The indoor coil must also be kept clean and the best way to do that is by maintaining the air filter. Regularly scheduled filter replacement will keep the coil clean. If you can see the coil is blocked, a professional cleaning is recommended. On most units the coil must be removed to be properly cleaned.

## It Pays To Stay Informed!

Find your account number in our Member Information Bulletin and you will receive a \$20.00 credit on your electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed to the right and make them aware of your discovery.

**It pays to stay informed!**

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## From The Cooperative Kitchen



This month's recipe was provided by Ann Stokes from Azle. She will receive a 60 Years of Home Cooking Cookbook, compliments of TCEC.



## BANANA SPLIT CAKE

### ... INGREDIENTS ...

- 2 - Eggs
- 1 - Stick of Margarine (softened)
- 1 - Teaspoon Vanilla
- 2 - Cups Powdered Sugar
- 2 - Large Ripe Bananas, sliced
- 1 - Can (20Oz.) Crushed Pineapple
- 12 - Strawberries (Sliced)
- 1 - 12 oz. Cool Whip
- 1 - (9 X 13) Graham Cracker Crust
- 1 - Package of Pecans (Optional)

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### ... DIRECTIONS ...

MIX TOGETHER IN A LARGE MIXING BOWL 2 EGGS, 1 STICK OF SOFTENED MARGARINE, AND 2 CUPS OF POWDERED SUGAR. THIS FORMS THE PUDDING. ADD 1 TEASPOON OF VANILLA TO THE PUDDING AND BLEND WELL.

SPREAD PUDDING OVER THE GRAHAM CRACKER CRUST IN A (9 X 13 PAN). ADD LAYERS ON TOP: FIRST THE BANANAS, THEN PINEAPPLE, AND FINALLY THE STRAWBERRIES.

TOP WITH COOL WHIP AND PECANS (OPTIONAL)

FREEZE! REMOVE FROM FREEZER A FEW MINUTES BEFORE SERVING.

TASTES GREAT AS IT THAWS!



**TRI-COUNTY**  
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