

FEC® POWER

Source

Vol. 24 No. 10

Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Scholarship Applications Available Now!

Farmers' Electric Cooperative will be awarding scholarships again this year through the Farmers' Electric Education Foundation. Scholarship applications may be obtained from area high school guidance counselors or from cooperative office locations in Clovis, Ft. Sumner, and Santa Rosa. Scholarship applications can also be requested by calling the Clovis office at 575-762-4466 or 800-445-8541 or by going online to www.fecnm.org. All cooperative members and their dependents are eligible to apply for these scholarships.

Don't Delay! Deadline For Applications Is **February 1, 2021!**



As in the past, there are two different scholarship forms. Be sure when requesting a form that you specify either the "Graduating High School Student Application" or the "Returning College Application." Both forms are available from any FEC office or are available to download from www.fecnm.org.

This year, the FEC Board of Trustees has authorized (63) \$1,000 scholarships and (1) \$2,000 Glenn Holland Memorial scholarship.

The Farmers' Electric Education Foundation was established by the members of the cooperative in 1986 and is funded through donated and unclaimed patronage capital refunds and donations by private individuals.

Only the interest earned on donations is used for scholarships, ensuring that the Education Foundation will continue to support higher education for our members for many years to come. Through 2020, the foundation has awarded 1319 scholarships totalling \$966,730.00.

FEC Cash-Back Rebate Program

New Construction

Newly constructed homes meeting FEC energy efficient guidelines will receive a rebate of **\$1250**. Home shall have the following insulation values: R-49 (attic) R-38 (cathedral) R-19 (exterior walls) R-8 (slab edge) R-25 (pier and beam floor). The heat pump, both dual-fuel and electric shall have a SEER rating at least one point above Federal Government minimum standards. If utilizing electric water heating, the water heater shall carry a rating \geq a .95 EF. If a hybrid heat pump water heater is utilized, the rebate would be **\$1650**.

Newly constructed homes meeting FEC energy efficient guidelines for insulation but utilizing evaporative cooling instead of refrigerated air conditioning are eligible to receive a rebate of **\$750**.

When a geothermal heat pump is utilized for both cooling and heating a home, and this application meets or exceeds the Co-op's energy efficient guidelines on new construction, members are eligible to receive a rebate of **\$1,000/ton** with a **\$5,000 cap** per home (same rebate would be available for retro-fits to existing homes).

Retrofit to Existing Residential

Heat Pumps

Retrofits including conversions to dual-fuel heat pumps and electric heat pumps (air source with a SEER rating of 15 or greater will receive a rebate of **\$500**. Also, would include

See **REBATES** on **PAGE 3**

Manager's Message...**Lance Adkins, GM**

Over the past few weeks, Farmers' Electric (FEC) has experienced a "rash" of vehicle accidents involving powerlines. Excessive speed and inattention appear to be major contributing factors in these accidents. In more than one instance the lines remained energized, but close to the ground, presenting a very dangerous condition for those involved as well as for first responders. One accident involved the above ground components of underground lines including a transformer, junction box and high-voltage switchgear. Fortunately, while there have been injuries, no lives have been lost in these accidents.

In addition to vehicle accidents, harvest season presents additional challenges. Combines, tractors and trailers, operated by folks working long hours, often well into the night, must be vigilant in staying away from powerlines in the area. Over the years, I am aware of more than one "tire fire" caused by a grain auger or other equipment in contact with a powerline, igniting a fire on the tires as high voltage flowed through the equipment to ground. FEC distribution lines range from 7,200 to 14,400 volts across our service area, with transmission voltages being substantially higher. Many folks believe that overhead lines are insulated, they are not.

FEC places a great deal of importance on educating employees and members about the dangers involving working with and around electric power sources. FEC conducts electric safety demonstrations in schools, for first responders and to any group or organization requesting a program. In addition, we try to have at least one safety message in all print material including this newsletter, enchantment, and even holiday messages folks may see in the newspaper or hear on the radio.

I am also aware of too many individuals who have lost their lives when contacting high-voltage lines and several lives lost when contacting common "household" voltage in wet conditions. An accident affects the lives of many more people than the one injured or killed. As harvest continues across our service area, and all through the year, I hope folks will remember to look up for powerlines when working in areas where overhead lines are present, including those times when folks see a broken pole or wire down.

Please, never assume the power is off, and report any accident involving powerlines you see to emergency responders and FEC.

Until next month,

Pay Attention and Live

Over the past few weeks, Farmers' Electric (FEC) has experienced a "rash" of vehicle accidents involving powerlines. Excessive speed and inattention appear to be major contributing factors in these accidents. In more than one instance the lines remained energized, but close to the ground, presenting a very dangerous condition for those involved as well as for first responders. One accident involved the above ground components of underground lines including a transformer, junction box and high-voltage switchgear. Fortunately, while there have been injuries, no lives have been lost in these accidents.



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Thom J. Moore,
POWER SOURCE

P. O. Box 550
 Clovis, New Mexico
 88102-0550
 Phone (575) 762-4466

or
 1-800-445-8541
thom@fecnm.org

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An Outage**

We are on-call 24 hours each day, 365 days each year, to serve **your** electric power needs.

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 (575) 762-4466
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Ask the Energy Guys!

Q. Hey Energy Guys, I was wondering what kind of maintenance I should do on my wood-burning fireplace. Wood is expensive, so I want to get the most for my money. My wife and I really enjoy the fire, but we realize it's not the most energy efficient way to heat. Any suggestions?

A. Great question! Colder temperatures are right around the corner, so it's a good time to check your fireplace for safety and efficiency now.

Even if you're still using an energy-inefficient wood fireplace, you can minimize the heat loss it causes by taking a few precautions:



- Close the fireplace damper until you are ready to burn a fire. Open it only while the fire is burning, and close it again once you have put the fire out or it has burned out. An open damper in an unused fireplace sucks heated air right out of your house and

sends it out through the chimney.

- Prevent air from your room from going up the chimney by installing tempered glass doors on the front of the fireplace. You can also direct the heat that the fire produces into your room by installing a heat-air exchange to blow the warm air into the house.
- Reinforce the seals around your fireplace flue damper. Tight seals prevent heated air from escaping through the fireplace and chimney.
- Insulate your chimney with liners to prevent creosote – a byproduct of exhaust from the fire – from building up in it. That buildup can make your fireplace less efficient and create a hazard for an unintended fire in the chimney.
- Call a chimney sweep certified by the Chimney Safety Institute of America to clean your fireplace and chimney every year before the heating season begins. The chimney sweep can advise you about safety issues and malfunctioning parts.
- If you don't use your fireplace, have a chimney expert plug and seal it so it won't rob your home of its comfortable, heated air.

REBATES from PAGE 1

any upgrades from existing heat pumps with 10 SEER or lower and/or more than 15 years old.

Electric Water Heater

Retrofits including conversions from gas or propane to an electric water heater with a .95 EF or higher will receive a rebate of **\$150**. Upgrades from existing electric water heaters with an .88 EF or lower and/or more than 10 years old will receive a rebate of **\$100**.

Hybrid Heat Pump Water Heater

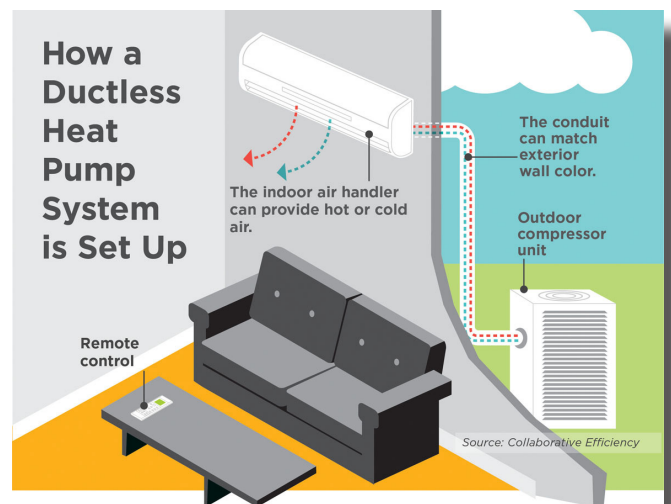
Retrofits including conversions from gas or propane to a hybrid heat pump water heater with a 2.5 EF or higher would receive a **\$500** rebate. Also, would include any upgrades from existing electric water heaters with an .88 EF or lower and/or more than 10 years old.

Geothermal Heat Pumps

Retrofits or new construction using equipment with a COP rating ≥ 3.3 and an EER rating ≥ 15.9 will receive a rebate of **\$1,000/ton** with a **\$5,000 cap**.

Mini-Split (Ductless Heat Pumps)

Retrofits or new construction using equipment with a SEER rating of 15 or greater will receive a rebate of **\$125/ton** with a **\$500 cap** per home.



Adding Insulation

Retrofits to bring existing insulation R value to at least an R-30. Example: If an existing home has an R-13 and 6" of fiberglass batting or 5" of blow cellulose is added, the new value would be approximately an R-30. This member would receive a **\$500** rebate.

Commercial

Lighting

Retrofits converting to LED from fluorescent lighting will receive **\$150/kW of demand reduction** on summer peak (2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.) with **cap of \$3,000**. Conversions that are considered "off-peak" will receive **\$75/kW** (all other times) with a cap of **\$1,500**.

Carbon Monoxide: The Invisible Killer

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that often goes undetected, striking victims caught off guard or in their sleep.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 400 people in the U.S. die from unintentional carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning every year. More than 20,000 visit the emergency room, and more than 4,000 others are hospitalized.

This “invisible killer” is produced by burning fuel in cars or trucks, small engines, stoves, lanterns, grills, fireplaces, gas ranges, portable generators, or furnaces. When the gas builds up in enclosed spaces, people or animals who breathe it can be poisoned. Ventilation does not guarantee safety.

How Can I Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning?

Anyone can be at risk. The CDC says infants, the elderly, and people with chronic heart disease, anemia or breathing problems are more prone to illness or death, but CO doesn't discriminate.

Winter can be a prime time for CO poisoning as people turn on their heating systems and mistakenly warm their cars in garages. So during times of cold weather, it's important to take extra precautions.

The National Safety Council recommends you install a battery-operated or battery backup CO detector in the hallway near each separate sleeping area in your home; particularly if you heat with natural gas or propane. Check or replace the battery at the time change in the spring and the fall and replace the detector every five years.



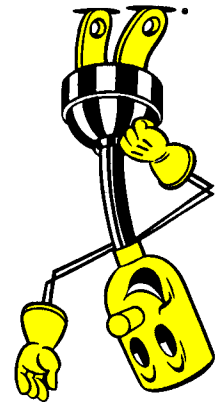
The CDC offers these additional tips:

- Have your furnace, water heater, and any other gas or coal-burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year
- Do not use portable flameless chemical heaters indoors
- Have your chimney checked and cleaned every year, and make sure your fireplace damper is open before lighting a fire and well after the fire is extinguished
 - Never use a gas oven for heating your home
 - Never use a generator inside your home, basement or garage or less than 20 feet from any window, door or vent; fatal levels of CO can be produced in just minutes, even if doors and windows are open.
 - Never run a car in a garage that is attached to a house, even with the garage door open; always open the door to a detached garage to let in fresh air when you run a car inside

When the Carbon Monoxide Alarm Sounds

The Consumer Product Safety Commission warns that you should never ignore a CO alarm, and do not try to find the source of the deadly gas. Instead, follow these steps:

- Immediately move outside to fresh air
- Call emergency services, fire department or 9-1-1
- Do a head count to check to account for everyone
- Do not reenter the premises until emergency responders have given you the go-ahead to do so



FARMERS' ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
 OF NEW MEXICO
 3701 Thornton St., P.O. Box 550
 Clovis, New Mexico 88102-0550

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