

Connection

Communicating local energy news to Four County Electric members

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

inside Four County Connection



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Get the Scoop



Thanksgiving Holiday Closing

Four County EMC offices will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thurs., Nov. 23, and Fri., Nov. 24.

Have a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

Thankful to Serve You

As we enter a month of reflection and thanksgiving, one thing at the forefront of our minds at Four County EMC is how grateful we are to serve you, our cooperative members. Safe, reliable and affordable electricity is a daily necessity, and we are thankful to both power and empower our members and our communities.

Our commitment to serving you extends far beyond providing electricity. We also invest in local communities by providing scholarships, grants and educational opportunities. From securing loans that fund much-needed community projects and generate new economic development, to providing Bright Ideas grants that bring innovative classroom proj-

ects to life, we strive to strengthen all aspects of our communities and give them new opportunities to grow and thrive.

As a not-for-profit business, Four County EMC's core mission is service. And because our co-op is locally owned and operated, we live and work alongside our members. We share your sense of pride in our communities,

and are grateful for the many ways we can contribute to their success.

We are also thankful for your commitment to our co-op—from taking the time to attend our annual meeting and electing our board of directors, to enriching our communities by choosing to participate in initiatives like Operation RoundUp®, you give Four County EMC a voice and help us improve the local quality of life.

Thank you for being part of Four County EMC and for your role in helping us live out the cooperative difference. We value your support and are thankful today, and every day, to continue serving you.

Happy Thanksgiving! We wish all of you a safe and happy holiday.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temps will be here soon! No matter what kind of heating system you have in your home, you can save money and increase your comfort by properly maintaining and upgrading your equipment. Contact a licensed professional to inspect your system before the winter chill arrives.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Don't forget to fall back on **November 5!** Set your clocks back by one hour.



Attend a Community Meeting Near You!

Annually, Four County EMC holds community meetings to inform our members about new developments in the electric utility industry, as well as receive information on current programs and services at their cooperative. Join us in November at a location in your area to get valuable information about what's happening at your cooperative. Members are encouraged to attend this year's meetings to discuss important issues such as:

- » Energy Efficiency
- » Billing Options and Marketing Programs
- » Things the Cooperative is doing to improve service
- » Capital Credits

Meetings are scheduled with registration starting at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. A light meal will be served and



members will be entered to win prizes during the evening.

For information about a community meeting in your neighborhood, call Four County EMC 1-888-368-7289.

Bethel Baptist Church

707 Old NC Hwy 41
DUBLIN—11/02/17

Island Creek Baptist Church

325 Harrison Creek Road
ROCKY POINT—11/06/17

Laniers Chapel Church

746 Ludie Brown Road
CHINQUAPIN—11/09/17

Moores Creek National Battlefield

Patriots Hall,
40 Patriots Hall Drive
CURRIE—11/13/17

Wilson Chapel Church

4867 New Hope Church Road
TURKEY—11/16/17

Capital Credit Refunds Exceed \$2.6 Million

Each year, the board evaluates the financial condition of your cooperative to determine whether a refund is warranted.

In September, the Four County board of directors authorized the retirement of over 2.6 million in Capital Credits for 2017. Four County members will receive refund checks in December. The refund represents 100% percent of each member's share of the remaining margins for 1991, 1992 and 10% of 2016.

Each month when you pay for electric service, Four County uses that money to pay expenses. At the end of each year, any money remaining above expenses is credited to patronage or capital accounts. The

amount in your capital credit account determined by the amount of the bills you paid during those years.

Member-furnished capital is used mainly to upgrade the electric system which reduces the need to borrow funds from our banker. The investment represents the member's equity in the cooperative.

Over the years, Four County has made refunds of more than \$42 million dollars to its members.

Any member whose share of the margins is less than \$5.00 will not receive a check at

this time, but the amount will be credited to their electric bill in December. Capital Credits and member control make cooperatives different from other utilities. Capital Credits are another benefit of electric cooperatives.





Programs and services available to help save energy and money

During the holiday season, many of us try harder to make every dollar stretch further. Four County EMC can't help you with your holiday expenses, but we can help you with your home energy budget. And that might just make the whole season feel a little happier.

For starters, we have Mobile Alerts and Reminders and a mobile app that allows you to track your daily energy use. Knowing when and why your electricity use peaks will help you make informed energy decisions, which could save you money in your overall budget.

If you'd like to be alerted when your energy use reaches a certain level, we can do that, too. You set the parameters that make the most sense for your home, your comfort and spending thresholds. We'll notify you by text,

email, voice, and push notification if you're close to that level, and you can take action to save.

As another benefit to our members, you may text 352-667 and type: "BAL" to receive account information, "PAY" to make a payment and "JOIN" to receive mobile alerts and reminders. It's easy and secure!

Another option, which is especially appealing this time of year, is prepay electricity. With our Prepay Advantage program, you pay up front for your electricity use in an amount

that works for your budget. We'll notify you when your funds are getting low, and you can add more money to your account. The best part? You are in control and you get to determine how much and how often you pay.

Or, if you're looking for some tried-and-true energy efficiency tips proven to save, we have that, too. The Energy Use section of our website includes a host of low and no-cost solutions for saving energy and money, like: Set your thermostats to 68° F in the winter; open curtains during the day to let sunlight warm your home; wash clothes in cold water; set water heater temperature no higher than 120° F and ensure windows and doors are properly weather-stripped to keep the cold air out. Find these easy-to-implement tips and much more at www.fourcty.org.

Replacing an appliance before the holidays? Our ENERGY STAR Rebate can help offset the cost. With documentation and proof of purchase of a qualified ENERGY STAR appliance, Four County EMC members are eligible for a \$50 rebate. Appliances that are eligible for rebates are: refrigerators, dishwashers, clothes washers, freezers and clothes dryers. Remember to look for the ENERGY STAR logo.

For assistance with any of the programs you may contact us at 1-888-368-7289.

As your not-for-profit energy partner, Four County EMC puts our members first. And that's why we want to make sure you have the tools and resources you need to have the happiest holiday season possible.



Winning Recipe

from the editor



Ingredients

- » 1½ C. quick cooking oats
- » ½ C. brown sugar
- » ⅓ C. all-purpose flour
- » 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- » ⅓ C. butter flavored shortening, melted
- » 1 Tbsp. water
- » 1 (16 oz.) can whole berry cranberry sauce
- » 2 Tbsp. cornstarch
- » 5 Granny Smith apples—peeled, cored and thinly sliced

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.

In a medium bowl, mix together oats, brown sugar, flour, and cinnamon. Stir in the melted shortening and water to form a crumbly mixture.

Apple Cranberry Crisp



In a large saucepan, mix together the cranberry sauce and cornstarch. Bring to a boil, and then remove from heat. Stir in the apples. Spread into an 8x8 inch glass baking dish. Crumble the oat mixture over the apples.

Bake in the preheated oven for 30 to 35 minutes, or until the apples are tender. Serve warm.



Reminding You to Move Over ... It's the Law

Under the “Move Over” law, motorists are required to move over one lane, if possible, or reduce speed for stopped emergency vehicles including electric utility vehicles restoring power on the sides of roadways. “Four County EMC line crews work in difficult situations and weather conditions to make sure we all receive safe and reliable power,” said Billy McGavock, Four County EMC’s Vice President of Operations.

Strong storms like some that have moved through our area in the past can send trees and limbs crashing to the ground, bringing power lines with them. All residents are encouraged to practice moving over and help protect the safety of not only the workers, but also the drivers on our local roadways.

Four County Electric

Our Mission

To provide highly reliable electric service, innovative energy solutions and outstanding service to our Members and Communities.

Our Values

- Respect
- Integrity
- Trust
- Teamwork
- Commitment
- Excellence

Our Vision

To be an advocate for our Members by:

- Exceeding members’ expectations
- Utilizing well trained, motivated employees
- Achieving excellence
- Operating efficiently
- Maintaining hometown values

Four County Connection

Gay Johnson, Editor

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A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

We believe in the Power of Human Connections

1-888-fourcty (368-7289)
customer@fourcty.org

Burgaw259-2361

Elizabethtown862-3551

Rose Hill289-4534