

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative

WATTS *Current*

For Our Customers • July 2005

USE ELECTRIC.COM

This new information site is available as a link on our website, www.mvec.coop, and offers a wealth of information about the benefits and efficiencies of electric power, products and technologies.

From this site you can calculate electric energy costs, do price comparisons and find information on energy saving products or appliances to help you make wise purchasing decisions. You can also find local contractors and their areas of expertise. This section continues to be updated as new contractors are enrolled.

From this site you can also link back to Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative's site at www.mvec.coop and learn about products, services, rebates or events specific to your cooperative.

And for those of you not interested in surfing the world wide web for this information, please feel free to call our Member Support Department at 800-927-6068 for personal attention or email us at memberservice@mvec.com. Our energy is always working for you!



Watts Inside:

- A Tough Balancing Act Page 2
- Alternate Energy Purchase Program Page 3
- Free Fluorescent Light Bulbs Page 3
- Plan to Attend August 28 Ag Antique Adventure Page 4
- Watts the Answer Page 5
- Shopping at a Farmer's Market Page 6
- Rebates Page 7



A TOUGH BALANACING ACT

By CEO, Jim Lauzon

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative has always prided itself in the personalized service it gives to every member. We try to react to each member's personal situations and be flexible enough to help when we can.

Disconnecting electric service for non-payment is one of the most unpleasant tasks we ask our staff to do. This often puts our staff in a situation of not being able to help a member who is behind in their bills. It is contrary to our basic philosophy of "serving" the membership. Our staff is often torn as they hear stories about the personal hardships faced by our members, be it a sick child, a dying parent, a job loss or poor crop conditions, each taking a financial toll.

We balance our compassion with a recognition that every unpaid bill is paid by all our other members. We are not a faceless corporation with distant stockholders who invest merely to make a profit. We are your neighbors, jointly owning a cooperative to bring electric service to all our homes and businesses at a reasonable price. When a bill goes unpaid, your neighbors pay it in higher rates or lower patronage payments. It is money directly out of your pocket.

This past year we have seen a significant increase in the amount of dollars that the cooperative must write-off. We are now turning accounts over for collection sooner in an attempt to slow this trend. A more aggressive collection process is not what our staff is trained for,

so we have outsourced this effort to trained collection services.

If you are having difficulty, please call us as soon as you know you might have a problem paying your bill. Do NOT wait until we have posted your account for disconnection. At that point, we have much less flexibility in dealing with your situation. We are happy to work with you on reasonable efforts to get your bill paid.

Neighbor helping neighbor....that is what cooperatives are all about.



**First Call
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ALTERNATE ENERGY PURCHASE PROGRAM

Would you like to promote alternate energy without investing in your own windmill or biomass project? Now you can purchase 50 kWh blocks of alternate energy from your Cooperative by simply notifying the billing department. An additional fee of \$1.00 for each 50 kWh block will be added to your monthly energy bill.

This program does not guarantee renewable energy will be delivered directly to your premise, however it does assure the amount of renewable energy you purchase will be purchased by the Cooperative first from approved generators on the Cooperative's electrical system and then from the Cooperative's power supplier, CIPCO, for delivery into the electrical system.

To enroll in the Alternate Energy Purchase Program, please call the billing department at 800-927-6068 or email billing@mvec.com.



FREE FLOURESCENT LIGHT BULBS FROM US TO YOU

Come in and get your free package of fluorescent bulbs. The package includes two 15 watt bulbs that are equivalent to 60 watt incandescent bulbs and two 20 watt bulbs that are equivalent to 75 watt incandescent bulbs.

Fluorescent lighting is becoming the "in" thing. It not only lights up your home with less watts thus saving you money but the fluorescent bulbs are known to last much longer. They carry up to 10,000 hours and only need to be changed every five to seven years. This is very convenient in those hard to reach areas.

To get your free four pack of fluorescent bulbs stop by our office. We are located at 109 North Huber Street (behind the National Motorcycle Museum). See you soon.





PLAN TO ATTEND AUGUST 28TH AG ANTIQUE ADVENTURE

Grace Zimmerman

Wanna' show today's generation about farmin' in the good ole' days?

Wanna' relive experiences of yore before machine technology transformed farm life?

Wanna' reminisce with others about the days of horse-drawn equipment?

Wanna' enjoy exhibits and demonstrations that provide entertainment and information for the entire family?

If you answered "YES" to any of the above the questions, it's time to mark your calendars to attend the "DEPPE THRESHING AND ANTIQUE DAY" on Sunday, August 28th, 2005 at 30612 Sieverding Ridge, located just 7 miles northwest of Bellevue.

Cletus Deppe says, "It all started when friend, Don Scheckel, bought a binder at a farm near by and I bought a thresher at the same farm. Neither one of us knew what the other one purchased. When we met and talked, we came up with the same idea, 'Let's have a little show'. That was about 20 years ago. It began as a way for showing how oats were cut with a binder,

shocked and then threshed, separating the oats from the straw." His wife and helpmate of over 50 years, nodded in agreement. Their two daughters, Susan, now retired, and Cleta Deppe related how the event grew and grew!

Susan recounts, "Our hay was cut so one neighbor brought over a horse-drawn rake and another neighbor brought over a hay loader to load the loose hay on the hay



L-R, Cleta, Cletus, Susan and Florence Deppe.

rack. This added another old time farming job to the threshing day."

There's even a clover hulling machine to separate the seed from the clover hay. It's a large wooden apparatus with lots of belts and pulleys, which Cletus purchased from an Amish farm in Sugar Creek, Ohio. "The Amish wanted it to have a good home," says Cletus. I can't imagine a better place for it

where it's well taken care of and where lots of people, from far and near, can enjoy watching it in operation.

This is when Cleta interjects, "People from all over attend, even visitors from other countries, Germany, Luxembourg, etc. I take lots of pictures of people enjoying the horse drawn rides and tractor rides which kids of all ages enjoy. Sue works at the gate, greeting and informing. We do sell buttons. There's no admission charge but people do make donations."

The entire family agrees, "It started out as a small thing. Neighbors and friends started bringing out the old equipment. For example:

- * There's plowing contest. They do their own little thing.
- * A rock crusher can be seen.
- * Wooden shingles are made with a saw.

- * A corn shredder where the whole corn stalk is fed into it to be chopped for feed.
- * A guy from Monmouth brings in a portable log saw. People bring in logs for him."

"Everyone's welcome to bring exhibits. Many come from Wisconsin with their old gas engines and tractors. It's not



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unusual to see 75 to 80 antique tractors on display, even a few old cars and trucks. How about an 816 International tractor made in 1919? There's even a lunch wagon. Lots of people pitch in," adds Susan.



The Deppe family is representative of 5 generations, with ancestors coming from Luxembourg, who have lived on the 223 acres Jackson County farm. Cletus was in a wheel chair the day I visited with this captivating family. Naturally, I asked "why". I was informed that as a result of poor circulation, surgery was required, which was followed by infection, which let to Cletus losing a part of his leg. He's being fitted with a prosthesis. Cletus states, "My goal is to drive a tractor again." Hearing the resolute tone in his voice and the help he gets from his wife, Florence and the two dynamite Deppe daughters, you know his goal will be accomplished.

Susan informs me, "As soon as one year's show is done, advertising starts for the following year. Posters and buttons are made, invitations are sent out to exhibitors who attend from a distance and the planning is in the works. It doesn't look like much the day before the DEPPE THRESHING AND ANTIQUE DAY. Some camping the prior day but, then it all fits together like a puzzle. Everyone's a spoke in the wheel. It takes friends and neighbors to put it all together and even help put things away. We invite everyone to attend, paying special attention to the kids, and work to make it farm friendly for the handicapped."

I have my calendar marked to attend the DEPPE THRESHING AND ANTIQUE DAY, which is held on the 4th Sunday of August, which means August 28th is the red letter day. The time of the event is from 11 AM TO 4 PM. I can show my grandkids what was common day farming when grandma was growing up.

There'll be signs to direct you, 7 miles northwest of Bellevue on 30612 Sieverding Ridge or 15 miles south of Dubuque on Hwy 52, turning right on D-55 for 2 miles and making a left turn on Sieverding Ridge. Me, I drove north out of Maquoketa on Hwy 61, turning right on D-55, taking the scenic drive through La Motte and making a right turn on Sieverding Ridge. If you want more information, or would like to bring your antique tractor, etc., you can contact the Deppe's at 563-872-4170. See ya' there.

WATTS THE ANSWER?

- 1) How many kWh's of wind energy could you buy for \$1.00? _____
- 2) When is Deppe's Threshing and Antique day? _____
- 3) In what city will our Annual Meeting be held? _____

Mail your answers in with your energy bill or email them to dreyhons@mvec.com

Two winners will each receive a \$10.00 credit on their energy bill.

Name: _____

Address: _____

May Winners:

Kenneth Hannan, Holy Cross
Tom Kintzle, Greeley





WATTS HEALTHY

Susan Uthoff, ISU Extension Nutrition & Health Specialist

Shopping at a Farmers' Market

Shopping at a Farmers' Market can be a very pleasant and tasty way to enjoy fresh produce. It connects you to the community, the seasons, and to local farmers. The dietary recommendation from MyPyramid (<http://www.mypyramid.gov/>) is to enjoy from five to nine servings of a combination of fruits and vegetables for better health. Farmers' markets are like a treasure chest of tasty and colorful choices. Involve your children. Give them a few dollars and let them buy whatever produce they want to eat. It's a good way to encourage them to eat more fruits and vegetables.

In most parts of the world, the local market is the heartbeat of the community. You will find a kaleidoscope of colors, flavors and smells. In Iowa, it's a way to support local farms, as well as to enjoy the freshness of lettuce and spinach, strawberries, tomatoes and other fruits and vegetables of the season. You know that you are buying food directly from the producer of that product. The interaction between you and the grower adds value to the shopping experience.

Another good reason to enjoy the weekly Farmers' Market is to eat and cook 'seasonally'. You begin to appreciate the seasons while shopping fresh. Use the market as a start for planning meals and plan

your next meal around the fresh produce you find. Experiment. Don't be afraid to try something new! You may discover a new favorite food to make your summer even richer and sweeter.

Take your time and have fun browsing. Stroll all the stands to see what's available before making your decision. Go early. You'll find the best selection early and can enjoy the fragrance and color of the market. Ask questions. If you don't know what a food item is, just ask. Usually they'll know how to prepare it. Some farmers may be great at growing food but not an expert in the kitchen when it comes to cooking it. Ask the shopper next to you for ideas on how to use it. Or experiment yourself (a key to creative cooking!) and try it raw, steamed, roasted, grilled or stir-fried. But for recipes, check your local library or do a web search. You can always call ISU Answerline for additional information 1-800-262-3804. You may discover a delightful addition to your summer meals.

Remember to bring cash and your own containers - baskets, bags, boxes. Often vendors have bags and boxes, but it's helpful to bring your own. You can feel good about recycling and buying local at the same time. Bring a cooler, especially in hot weather. Make sure to have coolers with ice packs in your car or take the produce straight home to keep it fresh and at

its peak. Dress comfortably. Wear walking shoes. If the market is outside bring sunscreen or umbrellas so you can shop, rain or shine.

For freshness, peak flavor, interesting varieties, taste and color, shop at your local Farmers' Markets. Buy sweet potatoes and try this recipe:

Garlic Sweet Potatoes

Makes 6 servings

1 small whole head garlic
6 small unpeeled sweet potatoes (2 1/4 lbs.)
1/3 cup low-fat sour cream
1/4 tsp. salt; 1/8 tsp. pepper

- Trim 1/4 inch from top of head of garlic. Do not peel or separate cloves.
- Wrap garlic in aluminum foil coated with vegetable spray. Place garlic and sweet potatoes on a baking sheet.
- Bake in 400 degree oven for 1 hour and 15 minutes; let cool 10 minutes. Separate cloves and squeeze to extract 2 teaspoons pulp.
- Remove and discard skins from potatoes. Mash potato pulp; stir in garlic pulp, sour cream, salt and pepper. Serve hot.

Nutrient information per serving: calories: 202, carbohydrates: 43 g, protein: 3.5 g, fat: 2 g, cholesterol: 4 mg, fiber: 5 g, sodium: 121 mg, potassium: 383 mg, vitamin A: 3425 RE



MVEC 2005 INCENTIVE/REBATE PROGRAM

EQUIPMENT/INSTALLATION	INCENTIVE	SPECIFICATIONS/REGULATIONS
Residential Geothermal Heat Pump (New) Geothermal Replacement Units Only	Closed Loop \$400/Ton Open Loop \$250/Ton \$150/Ton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum \$6000; Must be ARI Listed; Sized to allow compressor to supply at least 85% of heating requirements at design heat loss conditions without exceeding 200% of cooling load. Pre-approval required. Energy Star rated; ARI Listed; Subject to control agreement; Minimum 13 SEER cooling and 8.0 HSPF heating.
Air Source Heat Pump	\$150/Ton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electric Resistance or Geothermal; Requires premium electric water heater, no domestic water heating; \$250 equipment charge. Contact office for details & approval.
Compressor Change-Out Geothermal/Air-Source (Replacement)	\$100/Ton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Star Rated appliances Electric water heater and electric Energy Star Rated appliances Air Filtration/Radon/Heat Recovery/Ultra-Violet Air Purifiers
Heat Plus Program	Special Heat Rate \$.0345/kWh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum efficiency rating of 13 SEER; Subject to control agreement; Limit 2 per household
All Star Home Program	\$250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy factor of .92 or above; Subject to control agreement
Indoor Air Quality (Portable units do not qualify)	\$75	All Electric water heater must be energized
Central Air Conditioner	\$200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be Energy Star rated Home must have electric water heater to qualify for Dishwasher or Washing Machine rebate
Electric Water Heaters: Electric Water Heater (Premium Quality; 50 Gallon) Electric Water Heater (Premium Quality; 80 Gallon) Electric Heat Pump Water Heater (50 Gallon)	\$250 \$300 \$250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Star rated; 1 rebate per household/year Pre-approval over \$2,000 or 500 units
Energy Star Appliances*: Refrigerator Dishwasher (Electric water heater required) Washing Machine (Electric water heater required) Room Air Conditioner	\$50 \$25 \$75 front load; \$50 top load \$25	Contact office for complete details
Energy Efficient Lighting (Compact Fluorescent)	\$2/Compact Fluorescent \$2/Bulb for 4 ft. T-8 Fixture	Up to 200 hp; contact office for complete details; Pre-approval over \$1,000 or 20 units.
Outdoor Lighting (Dusk to Dawn)	Variable	Contact office for complete details
Dairy -Milk Pre-Cooler	\$3/Cow	
Energy Efficient Premium Motors	Variable	
Variable Speed Drive (VSD)	\$40/Horsepower	Contact office for complete details

* Limit to one of each appliance/household. • Request rebate application form from office and return with copy of sales receipt. (Forms may also be downloaded from www.mvec.coop)
• Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative reserves the right to discontinue the Rebate Program at any time. No rebates will be paid for a temporary or seasonal application.

NOTICE



Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative's office will be closed Monday July 4th, 2005.

Visit our Web Site

at www.mvec.coop or
Email direct to the following departments:

- Billing questions: billing@mvec.com
- Product or service questions: memberservice@mvec.com
- Maintenance issues: maintenance@mvec.com



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7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Web Site: www.mvec.coop
e-mail: mvec@mvec.com

After Hours Call Center

800-582-8998

After hours you may also call the service person in your area to report outages or trouble on the line.

Anamosa, Dallas Paustian.....	319-462-4848
Cascade, Pete Boffeli	563-852-3180
Dubuque, Rick Olsem.....	563-582-3668
Farley, Jim Lehman.....	563-744-3005
LaMotte, Brett Cox.....	563-773-8614
Manchester, Dan Petersen.....	563-927-6491
Maquoketa, Jerry Streeper.....	563-652-5014

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