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December 2009

Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Turn off kitchen, bath, and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

—Source: Alliance to Save Energy

CHEC offices will be closed
Dec. 24th & 25th
for Christmas.



Congratulations

The online Survey winner for October is Loyce Green from Gore.

Capital Credit checks are in the mail

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative Inc. Board of Directors has authorized the distribution of \$549,843.88 in capital credits to current and former members of the Cooperative.

Checks will be mailed by the second week of December to active and past members for the year of 1990. Capital credit distributions from member owned, not-for-profit utilities, like Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative are somewhat similar to the dividends paid to shareholders of investor-owned utilities. The difference is that a co-op's "shareholders" are also the members that it serves, and the capital credits are distributed to the co-op's members.

Your rates are set to bring in enough money to pay operating costs, make

payments on any loans and provide an emergency reserve. At the end of each year, we subtract operating expenses from the total amount of money collected during the year; the balance is the "margin." This is allocated to each member based on the amount each member paid for electricity.



Holiday Decorations Could Inflate Your Electric Bill

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative wants to remind members that many small things can add up to a high electric bill. Consider limiting the time of use of inflatable yard ornaments and Christmas lighting to a few hours daily.

Use Energy Star floodlights for additional savings. Give L.E.D. Christmas

lights a try. They use 90 percent less energy than conventional light strands. Remember to practice good electrical safety by thoroughly inspecting extension cords and never overload an electrical outlet.



Hot Watts

is published monthly by Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. *Hot Watts* informs members in parts of seven Eastern Oklahoma counties about Cookson Hills' programs and issues. Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative continually strives to provide quality electrical service at a reasonable cost for its members.

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Cookson Hills welcomes members to submit photos, and articles which will be subject to Cookson Hills editing. Any submissions must be received before the 12th of the month prior to the publication date.

If You Find Your Account Number Hidden in This Issue of *Hot Watts* You'll Receive a \$25 Credit on Your Electric Bill

The Recipe Box



Red Velvet Cheesecake Brownies

Crust:

1 egg
1 stick butter
1 red velvet cake mix

Mix together & pat into a 9 x 13 in. pan.

Filling:

1 lb powdered sugar
2 eggs
1 stick butter
8 oz cream cheese
½ c pecans (reserved for topping)

Mix filling. Pour over crust.

Bake at 325 degrees for 45 min. or until golden brown. Should be gooey in the middle.

Makes: 24 brownies

If you would like to see more recipes appear in the Hot Watts newsletter, please contact Larry Mattes, or submit your favorite family recipes to: P.O. Box 539, Stigler, OK 74462. We will try to get your recipe published.

Are you ready for winter weather? *Keep a storm kit handy*

When creating a winter survival kit, remember items that are specific to your family. For instance, if your home is isolated or on the outskirts of town, make sure you stock extra food, water, and medicine if the weather forecast suggests bad weather is on the way.

Keeping a storm kit on hand can help your family survive a severe winter storm. Make sure your home is stocked with the following emergency materials:

*Alternative methods to heat for your home: Dry firewood for a fireplace or wood stove, kerosene for a kerosene heater.

*Blankets

*Matches

*Candles

*First Aid Kit

*Flashlight

*Battery-powered clock radio

*Shovel

*Rock salt

*Non-electric can opener

Coo Y

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative is proud to win another award from the Electric Youth of Washington State for nearly 50 years of service to America's youth. To participate, call 1-800-328-2368 or visit www.cooksonhills.com. The award is a recognition of the "energy" that the Washington State Electric Cooperative's 2010 Youth Award winners have shown. (www.cooksonhills.com) 967-4614

To be eligible, you must be attending school in Washington State. For more information, contact the Electric Cooperative of Oklahoma.



Stigler High School student Kristie Casper, right back row, and Stigler High School student Caitlyn Garmon, left back row, are winners of the 2010 Youth Award. Stigler High School principal McGuire and Stigler High School principal McGuire are also present.

Cookson in the Community Youth Tour

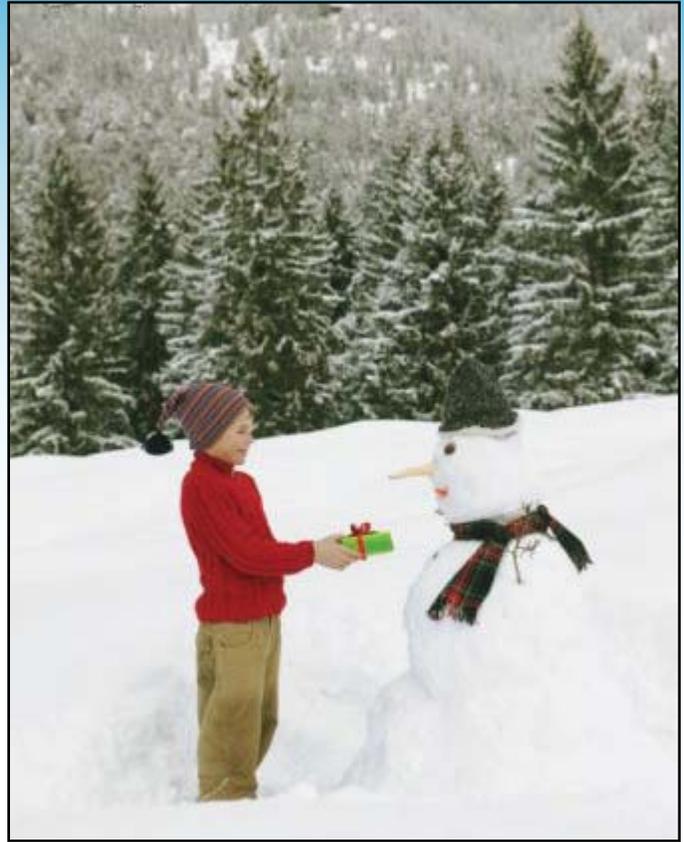
Cookson Hills Electric Youth Tour trip is approaching and giving four area high school juniors the opportunity for an all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. The Rural Youth Tour has brought over 1,500 high school students to Washington, D.C. every June, since the early 1960's. To date, 15,000 students from rural areas and small towns all over the state have participated in this unique program. To participate you must be a junior student and write a 500 word essay on the topic "The Future of Our Environment". The four winners chosen will attend the Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. June 11-17, 2010. More information on the Youth Tour trip is available on the Cookson Hills website (www.cooksonhills.com) or you can contact Kristie Cash at 918-328-2368 or toll free at 1-800-328-2368. To be eligible to compete, you must be a high school junior attending a school in Cookson Hills Electric's service territory. Your parents do not have to be members of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative.



High School juniors after Rural Youth Tour presentation, left to right: Cookson Hills employee Kristie Cash, Reagan Rhodes, Craig Martin, Justin McCurry, Mrs. Robbie Butler, Dillon Lewis. Front row: Alyssa Pemberton, Kaitlyn Turner, Katie Ward, Kristie Cash and Brian Wheeler.



Junior, Kyle Butler reviewing the Youth Tour guidelines.



GIVE THE GIFT OF WARMTH

Do you have a family member or friend that is hard to buy for?

A wonderful and warming holiday gift for any CHEC member is one less bill to pay during the holiday season. You can give this gift by paying any amount you choose directly to a member's account.

To give this gift, stop by one of our offices, with this form completed. We will give you a cash register receipt with the amount credited to the member's account. We also have a gift receipt you may present to the recipient.

Please give us a jingle at your local Cookson Hills Electric office if you have any questions.

Name on account: _____

Account number (if known): _____

Dollar amount paid on account: _____

Three Generations at Huntree Nursery



Jack Hunt, first generation tree farmer and nursery owner.

Sure, you can get a Christmas tree at a corner lot or a department store. That would be one way to go, however you could also put the family in the SUV and take your quest south of Sallisaw on highway 59, traveling to one of the wonderful businesses on CHEC lines.

A trip to Huntree Nursery and Christmas Tree Farm would be an adventure, and a day to remember. Huntree Nursery and Christmas Tree Farm has kept alive what it calls an American holiday tradition for over three generations, cutting your own Christmas tree.

Besides selecting a fresh-cut tree you can spend the day at the Huntree Nursery with your family, searching and even cutting down your own tree or shopping from the many kinds of trees already cut and ready to be taken home.

Jackie Hunt took over the family farm in 1989 after graduating from college at Northeastern State University. Jackie and his sons Trey and Chase help run the family business. The farm is located off highway 59 south of Sallisaw, where they own around 87 acres of land on which they grow many breeds of shade trees plus a vast majority of top Christmas tree breeds. The Hunt's have many breeds of trees such as White Pines, Scotch Pines, Noble Fir, Douglas Fir, Grand Fir, and Fraser Fir trees shipped in for Christmas.

"We ship in around three semi-loads of trees from wholesale nurseries out of North Carolina and Oregon, which are pre-harvested and placed on a custom display stand. We pre-drill the bottom of the tree trunk so we can stand them straight up underneath our covered Christmas tree area, for customers to walk through and view, even if it is raining or snowing," said Jackie Hunt.

Huntree Nursery and Christmas Tree

Farm provides a delivery service for customers who need a way to get the trees home. For customers who are looking at buying a real Christmas tree, Christmas trees are sold by the foot, and priced on the time it takes to grow and harvest them.

"There's no reason to feel guilty about taking home a live tree that has been harvested specifically for the holidays," said Jackie.

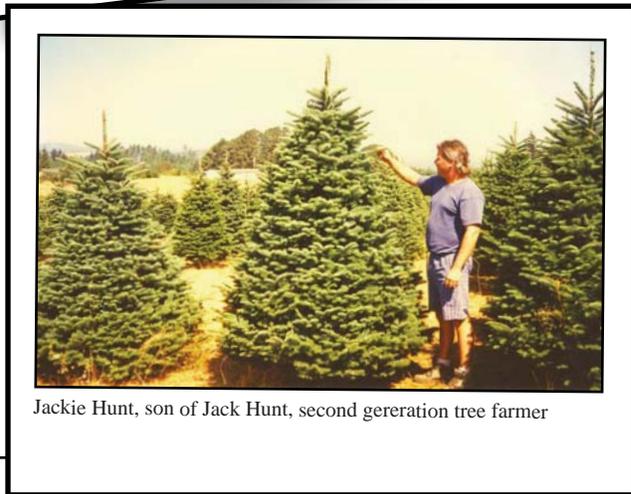
Jackie's son Trey helps run the wholesale side of the farm while running deliveries and helping out on the retail side when he can.

"Our most popular tree among customers is the Noble Fir, considered an excellent Christmas tree because of its beauty, stiff branches and long keep ability. Another popular tree we sell is the Fraser Fir and Douglas Fir," said Trey.

Trey added, "I look forward to the holiday season and helping out my dad at the farm. It brings a smile to you when you see the kids picking out their own tree; seems to always put me in a good mood."

Huntree Nursery and Christmas Tree Farm opened mid-November and is open until Christmas. The Hunt's family also sells many other holiday items such as real pine garland and grave blankets which are weaved tree branches with velvet ribbons and are built to the grave site size.

"I would invite anyone who has mixed feelings about buying a real tree to visit our tree farm. We would like to encourage local schools to call ahead and plan their school trip to the Huntree Nursery and Christmas Tree Farm," said Jackie.



Jackie Hunt, son of Jack Hunt, second generation tree farmer

Contact Huntree Nursery for more information at 918-774-2401 or 918-774-8077.



Jackie Hunt and son Trey Hunt, third generation tree farmers in front of Huntree Nursery and Christmas Tree Farm.