

February 2005
Vol. 54, Number 2

Adams Outlet

News for Members of Adams Electric Cooperative, Camp Point, Illinois

Youth to Washington Tour



Attention Sophomores & Juniors

YOU COULD WIN!

Details on Page 4



2005

Adams Outlet

www.adamselectriccoop.com

Office hours:
Monday-Friday
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

To report an outage:
1-800-232-4797
Local calls dial direct:
217-593-7701

MISSION STATEMENT

"Adams Electric Cooperative is committed to exceeding the expectations of those we serve!"

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Mike Tenhouse.....Coatsburg

Vice President

Jim Benz.....Quincy

Secretary

Alan Acheson.....Rushville

Treasurer

Richard King.....Huntsville

Director

Bob Willis.....Mt. Sterling

Director

John Kestner.....Payson

Director

George Schneider.....Liberty

Director

Ed Wagner.....Mt. Sterling

Director

Lyle Waner.....Loraine

General Manager

Jim Thompson PE.....Quincy

Attorney

Charles Burton.....Rushville

ADAMS OUTLET (USPS 005-220) is published monthly for \$2.00 per year by Adams Electric Cooperative, 700 East Wood, Camp Point, Illinois 62320. Periodical postage paid at Camp Point, Illinois and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Adams Outlet, P.O. Box 247, Camp Point, Illinois 62320.

Editor
Laura Dotson

2



Reflections of Cooperative Members

A few months ago, many of you received a printed survey that was coordinated by our statewide association on behalf of Adams Electric and the other Illinois electric cooperatives. Many thanks to 370 of you who completed the survey and returned it – this was a response rate of more than 35 percent.

You might ask why a small, not-for-profit electric cooperative surveys its members. We do it for a number of reasons. The purpose of the survey was to discover overall perception of the cooperative and provide an analysis of whether perceptions are trending up or down compared to previous surveys. It gives us a measure of our quality of service, courtesy to our members, promptness in your requests for system repairs, service upgrades, etc. It also provides a benchmark of where we stand compared to other utilities and helps us discover where we need to improve and where we are doing a good job. A survey is a means to find out what our members really think of the job we are doing. We learn more about your thoughts on the information we send in this publication. It provides us a chance to ask you about your interest in new technology, services and products such as renewable "green power" or whole-house surge protection systems.

While we don't hear from every one of you, a response of 370 provides us with a confidence factor of 95 percent. This means that the survey results give us a pretty accurate snapshot of the cooperative's membership as a whole even though less than half of the members responded to the survey.

Overall, it appears that Adams Electric members think the Cooperative is doing a very good job. This year's survey was part of the American Customer Satisfaction Index, or ACSI, a nationally-known rating service which rates customer

satisfaction levels in a variety of industries. This program is part of our partnership in Touchstone Energy® and we were pleased to learn that **our Cooperative received one of the top scores among all the Illinois electric cooperatives. Our score was nine percentage points higher than**

the national electric utility industry average and four points higher than the Illinois electric cooperative average.

The survey asked 45 questions. Here are a few of the results: Nearly half of all survey respondents said they have a "very positive" view of the Cooperative and **nearly 99 percent have a "positive" or "very positive" view. Nearly 99 percent are either "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the Cooperative's service.** More than half said that service has improved in recent years.

Providing prompt, outstanding service for every member is our goal at Adams Electric. Every one of our employees shares that goal and, based upon the survey results, it appears we are doing pretty well. **The survey rates our employees extremely high for the courteous way we interact with our members.** Our state association reports that **Adams is one of the top co-ops in the state in this regard.**

We were pleased to learn that **Adams Electric is #1 among**



General Manager
Jim Thompson PE

Illinois Cooperatives when it comes to promptly responding to outages and special requests from you, our members. The employees take great pride in responding to member needs. These results say a lot about our employees!

While these numbers are very good, we cannot rest on our laurels. We need to continually strive to do better and find ways to improve our work processes.

Most members said they didn't experience any trouble calling the Cooperative office to report outages, request service upgrades, check on a billing issue, etc. Only eight of the 370 responding members said they had difficulty calling in ... and most of these problems came during electrical outages (when the phone lines are jammed).

Members say that they get their Cooperative information from reading this newsletter. **Eighty-two percent read it every month and 95 percent read it most of the time. More than 70 percent indicate that the Cooperative's annual meeting, and the election of directors that takes place there, is important.** So we hope to see all of you at the 2005 annual meeting in September!

Lastly, we asked some demographic questions, which show how the membership is changing over time. The results are rather interesting.

First, 91 percent of members reside in a single family home, as opposed to a mobile home or second home. About 70 percent of members have lived in their present location for more than seven years. An increasing number of members own their own home – nearly 96 percent.

The survey bears out AEC's **high level of geothermal**

homes, over 10 percent market penetration...easily the highest in Illinois. As Doug Rye says in his radio show, Adams County is the geothermal capital of the world!

Nearly a quarter of Adams Electric's members are retired (23.8 percent). This number is growing, up 3 percent from our last survey in 2001. Twenty-one percent of our members consider themselves farmers, and this number continues to decline.

More than six of ten members indicated that they received some college education and more than 22 percent are college graduates.

We know that a sizable percentage of our members are retirees – many living on fixed incomes. A high percentage of the homes on our lines have older folks living in them and this number continues to increase. We need to be attentive and responsive to all members, but especially the special needs of older members.

In summary, it appears that we are generally doing a pretty good job, but our goal is to improve and do better. We want to improve the member satisfaction levels in the months ahead and want members to want to do business with us.

We are also aware that many of you are concerned about the cost of electricity. We are concerned about this as well and will continue to do our best to provide you with the best service possible, at the lowest possible cost.

We appreciate every one of you who took the time to respond to this survey. Remember that you do not have to wait until the next survey to share your thoughts, concerns or praise. You can contact me anytime at 217-593-7701, 1-800-232-4797 or email jthompsn@adams.net. I look forward to hearing from you.

Ask the Editor

Member Q&A



*Dear Adams Electric:
On behalf of Central Junior High School faculty and staff, I want to thank you for your generous donation of the "Get Charged!" educational kit. It helps expand our resources for the teaching about electricity. Help from our community is beneficial in these tight financial times.
In Education,
Mrs. Pat Heinecke, Principal*

*Adams Electric Co-op:
I want to extend Holiday Greetings & Best Wishes to all the staff at Adams Electric Co-op. Please know that your excellent response & services that you extend during storms & power outages etc. are greatly appreciated.
Thanks again,
Dorothy Althoff for Virgil Althoff*

*Dear Mr. Stalder,
Thank you for your generous gift of the Get Charged kit to Saint Mary School. Your kindness will touch the lives of our students and help us to continue to provide a quality Catholic education. We personally appreciate your support and remind you that you and your corporation are remembered in our prayers and in the prayers of the students. May God bless you and your family.
Sincerely,
Charlotte J. Koch, Principal*

*Gentlemen and/or Ladies:
This is just to thank you for your quick response to my call for a problem I was having with my power on Sunday, October 31st. The two gentlemen that came to the house were very friendly and got right to work and pretty much solved things. It was decided that I should also have an electrician come have a look at my old wiring. I know they were just doing their job, but with them it was more than just that. Thanks to all involved, including the man that answered the phone.
Yours truly,
William Smith, Payson*



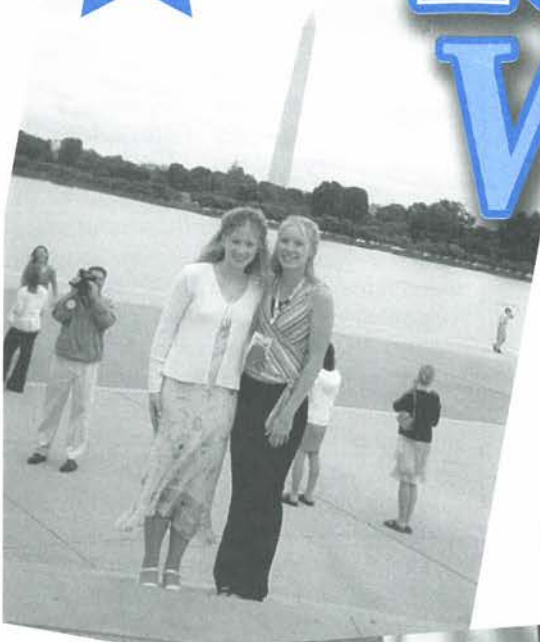
Wouldn't it be exciting to win an all-expense paid week-long trip to Washington, D.C.? Can you imagine? To tell you the truth, your odds are pretty good if you're a high school sophomore or junior. Adams Electric Cooperative and Adams Telephone Co-Op-

Over the past 46 years Adams Electric Cooperative has sent over 100 students to Washington D.C. Adams Telephone Co-Operative recently joined the program and sent their first two students last year. We are thrilled to see them join us in this exciting program for our youth.

The process has changed from a couple years ago. Students do not have to write a lengthy essay but simply submit an application and answer a few short answer questions. Finalists (up to 34 students from this area)

will get a free trip to Springfield for Illinois Rural Electric & Telephone Cooperative Youth Day this April. While in Springfield, students will

46th Annual Youth to Washington Tour



erative will each sponsor two students from this area!

Electric Cooperatives across the United States have been sending students to Washington D.C. every year since the late 1950s.

tour the state capitol, visit legislators and tour other historical sites. At the end of the day, students will participate in a brief interview. Two students will be selected to represent Adams Electric Cooperative on the Youth to Washington tour



and two students will represent Adams Telephone Co-Operative. The winners will be chosen based on their applications and the interview. One alternate will be named to represent each cooperative should one of the winners be unable to go to Washington.

Winners of the trip will leave for Washington on June 17 traveling by air-conditioned charter bus and will return June 24. While in Washington, students will meet with 2,000 other students across the nation and visit George Washington's home and grounds, Smithsonian Museums, Arlington National Cemetery, National Cathedral, the White House, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Gettysburg battlefields and many other historical places. Some of our students favorites have been the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum, WWII Memorial, FDR Memorial and the Saudi Arabia Embassy. Winners not only enjoy the trip of a lifetime but return having made friendships with other students

across the United States.

All schools will be receiving information about the 2005 Youth Tour Program along with application materials. Interested sophomores and juniors may obtain an application from any English teacher or counselor or by contacting Laura Dotson, Communications Coordinator at Adams Electric Cooperative (800) 232-4797. Applications are due by Friday, March 11.





Wedding Proposal Stories

and dad celebrated 50 years of marriage on April 16, 2002. But we were unable to have a big celebration because dad was very ill. Dad gave mom a beautiful diamond anniversary ring. Dad passed away in June 2002. Several weeks after Dad's death I was admiring Mom's ring (it was Dad's last gift to her). We started to reminisce about our dating days, our engagements, marriages, and children.

When I shared about my ring being in the glove box, Mom was surprised and she told me that in the glove box of Dad's car was where Dad

had hidden her engagement ring also. I had never known that until then. So now when some couples show up on TV for a wedding proposal, I have to smile to myself and remember the two special men in my life who really did think alike and took really good care of their special gals.

Mary Jo Obert, Liberty

My boyfriend blindfolded me and took me on a four-wheeler ride one afternoon. When we stopped, he helped me get off the four-wheeler, get up on a rack wagon, and on up some steps he had built out of straw bales.



When he told me to take the blindfold off, I turned around and he was standing there with a diamond ring in his hand.

On the hillside behind him he had arranged a bunch of straw bales to say, "MARRY ME?" I said "yes."

Erica Smith, Camden

Our proposal took place September 19, 2001 in Jacksonville, Illinois. Steve and I had discussed getting married and I had agreed BUT we were not going to tell anyone until we got a ring. I told Steve he could just get me a ring from the bubble gum machine so we could tell everyone. But he said "No, we'll get the ring next weekend and then tell everyone."

However, much to my surprise, Steve had other plans up his sleeve. He had taken a ring I wear a lot, picked out my diamond and had it sized by that ring. Steve was singing in a gospel quartet at the time and they were in concert at Prairie Land Days in Jacksonville. Unknown to me, he had made arrangements for my mom, brother, sister and good friend to be at the concert. He had also told the entire quartet, his parents and sons that he was going to propose. Plus, he had made arrangements to tape the concert. Steve was doing the introduction for the group and when it came time for his intro he said something about having a lot of his family there including parents, sons, aunts and uncles and someone else very special to him. He then asked me to come forward. I was now getting suspicious. Steve then asked me in

front of about one hundred people if I would marry him and his sons. He pulled out a plastic bubble container from his pocket almost dropping it down the old furnace register.

Yes, I agreed to marry them. However I thought the ring was a FAKE because it didn't fit. Plus, he gave it to me in the bubble gum container. The more I looked at the ring, I knew he had pulled one over on me and had included so many other people in our engagement.

Lisa Surratt, Mt. Sterling

My wedding proposal was at Upper Moorman Park on the fishing dock with

My husband and I were high school sweethearts. We started dreaming and planning and hoping to be married when we were only about 16 years old. We both went on to finish high school and found jobs to get started on our "nest egg." After Dan had worked about 6 months, we went to look at engagement rings. He picked out a beautiful diamond and setting. He put some money down and put the "ROCK" on layaway. I figured it was going to be a long time before I would see the "ROCK" again because it was going to take a lot of payments to get it out of the jewelry store. But Dan blew a couple of his entire paychecks and his Christmas bonus that year to get it paid for. So I was surprised, when one night in January, he told me to get his gloves out of the glove compartment of his car and the little green (my favorite color) velvet lined box was there. Of course I was excited and we were married and have been for 31 years. But finding your engagement ring in the glove compartment is pretty tame compared to those girls who get asked to get married on shows like "Oprah." But I found out a little piece of information about

6 two years ago that makes our proposal very special. My mom

the frogs croaking! One hot evening in the summer many years ago my boyfriend (now my husband) took me out to the park and we walked out onto the fishing dock under the stars. It was a beautiful night with the reflection of the moon in the water. All of a sudden he brought out this ring and proposed. I was surprised!! In the background was the music (or whatever you call it) of frogs croaking. May sound strange to some, but it was romantic in its own way.

Janet Arns, Quincy

I had the ring for about six months before the perfect opportunity to pop the question fell into my lap. Brenda and I were both working and acting at the Golden Eagle Dinner Theatre in Canton when I was asked to fill in for our emcee to work a Sunday matinee. Brenda was asked to be my lovely assistant. So there we were...a tuxedo, a sequined gown, a microphone, a live audience...I got the hint. I called our families, invited a group of her sorority

sisters to the show, ordered flowers, and hoped for the best. When our official duties as emcees ended just before show time, I told the audience that I had one more thing to say. With that I pulled the ring out of my pocket, dropped to one knee and speaking over the applause and cheers of a shell-shocked matinee crowd asked Brenda to be my wife. As a bouquet of wild flowers was thrust into her arms and balloons showered us from the balcony, she answered yes. We celebrated our 11th anniversary in September.

Bill Stalder,
Manager of Marketing/Member
Services
Adams Electric Cooperative

My husband and I had plans to get married but we were going to hold off on an engagement ring and just get a wedding band. Apparently, he had other plans. On Christmas we opened all of our presents and reached for our stockings. He handed me my stocking --it was one of his socks!

Lucky for him, I was willing to reach inside. He had filled it with candy and a package of bubble gum...strawberry Bubblicious...my favorite. I started to sit the contents aside so he asked me for a piece of gum. I tore off the end



and handed him a chunk. But there was something strange hiding behind the first piece of gum...a little piece of foam (about the size of two pieces of gum) wrapped in leather. I pulled it out and tucked in the foam was a diamond ring! He smiled and asked me to marry him. Of course I said, "Yes!"

Laura Dotson,
Editor of Adams Outlet
Adams Electric Cooperative

EARN \$5 ...it's easy!

**Tell us a story. Send us a photo.
Earn money off your electric bill.**



"Someone played an April Fool's joke on me and I fell for it..."

Or, maybe you played an April Fool's joke on someone else. Tell us your funny stories.

DEADLINE: Fri., Feb. 18

"The best place I ever traveled to..."

Have you ever taken a fabulous vacation? Maybe you've stayed in some far off land or visited someplace in the U.S. Send us a photo if possible.

DEADLINE: Fri., March 18



"I have a unique hobby or craft..."

Tell us about your unique interests. Maybe you're a mime or fly hot air balloons. Maybe you make sand sculptures or are an accomplished yo-yo-er. Send a photo if possible.

DEADLINE: Fri., April 15

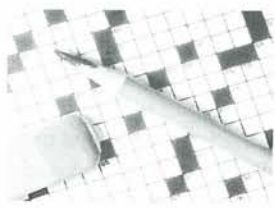
"My favorite book..."

I read the best book. What's it called? What's it about? Tell us what you thought of it.

DEADLINE: Fri., May 13



Send your entries to: **Laura Dotson, Adams Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 247, Camp Point, IL 62320** or email them to: **ldotson@adams.net** Each published entry will receive a \$5 electric bill credit. One entry per household, per category. Please include a S.A.S.E. if you want your entry returned.



CROSSWORD

Enter to win a **\$25** electric bill credit

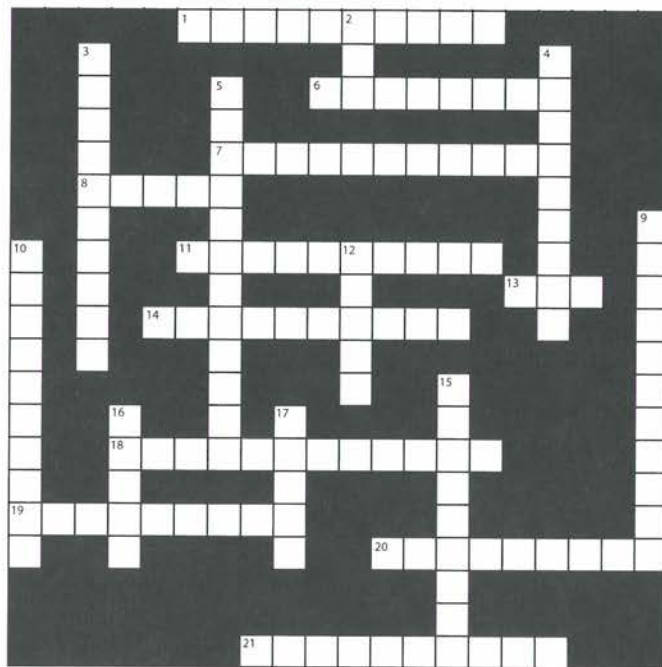
Simply fill out this crossword with the correct answers. All answers can be found inside this issue of the Adams Outlet. One winner will be drawn from all entries received by **Friday, February 25, 2005.**

Across

1. Adams Electric is selling out of _____.
6. Vegetable in chicken casserole.
7. Youth to Washington finalists will attend Youth Day in _____.
8. Applications for the Youth to Washington Contest are due in _____.
11. Visible areas on your roof after a snow can indicate space in your attic that needs _____.
13. Smoke alarms should be replaced at least every _____ years.
14. Area schools received _____ educational kits from Adams Electric Cooperative (2 words).
18. By completing this crossword, you could win a \$25 _____ credit (2 words).
19. Adams Electric Cooperative is committed to _____ the expectations of those we serve.
20. Never borrow _____ from a smoke detector.
21. Doug Rye calls Adams County the _____ capital of the world.

Down

2. Adams Electric Cooperative is tracking the _____ progress.
3. Event starting February 18 (3 words).
4. Renewable fuel.
5. High school sophomores and juniors can win a trip to _____.



9. Members can send in stories based on certain categories and earn _____ off their electric bill (2 words).
10. Adams Electric Cooperative's new fundraising program where bills will be rounded up for charitable causes (2 words).
12. New fundraising program will begin in _____.
15. AEC has many employees that donate their time to the community. Joyce Hibbert is this month's featured _____.
16. By purchasing a second _____, you can save money on electric heating, cooling and water heating.
17. _____ were heard in the background during someone's wedding proposal.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 Daytime Phone: _____

Return your completed entry to:
 Attn: Laura Dotson
 Adams Electric Cooperative
 P.O. Box 247
 Camp Point, IL 62320

Crossword Deadline: Friday, February 25

Goal: 10,318 AMR Meters



Dec. 2004
9,843
AMR
Meters

Nov. 2004
9,759 Meters

Oct. 2004
9,690 Meters

Sept. 2004
9,534 Meters

August 2004
9,252 Meters

July 2004
9,072 Meters

June 2004
8,500 Meters

2003
6,700 Meters

2002
4,550 Meters

2001
2,200 Meters

**Watt
A
Success!**

**Climbing The Pole
To Our Goal.**

Car Safety

If your car comes in contact with downed power lines, stay in the car until help arrives. Whatever you do, do not allow the electricity to use you as its path to the ground. If you touch the car and the ground at the same time, the electricity will travel through your body to the ground. If your car is on fire and you must exit the vehicle, jump with both feet together as far away from the car as possible. The ground near the vehicle could be charged, so continue to hop with both feet together away from the vehicle. Call the utility immediately so the line can be fixed and no one else gets hurt.

Do you have gas heat
and Can't afford to keep
your home comfortable?

...

We can install an add-on heat pump
to your existing system
and help you save hundreds of dollars per year!



(CALL FOR DETAILS)
217-224-2665 (COOL)
217-224-4328 (HEAT)
217-936-2764

Adams Electric Cooperative's **Country Kitchen**



Send us your favorite recipe(s)!

Mail your recipe(s) to: Attn: Laura Dotson, Adams Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 247, Camp Point, IL 62320

Rich Caramel Cake

Submitted by Ed Hilgenbrinck

- 1 pkg. (14 oz.) caramels, unwrapped
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter or margarine
- 1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk
- 1 pkg. (18.25 oz.) chocolate cake mix
- 1 cup coarsely chopped toasted pecans

Heat oven to 350° F
In a saucepan over low heat, melt caramels and butter. Remove from heat; add sweetened condensed milk. Mix well; set aside. Prepare cake mix according to package directions. Spread 2 cups batter in a 13 x 9 inch baking pan; bake for 15 minutes. Spread caramel mixture over cake; spread remaining batter over caramel mixture. Top with pecans. Return to oven; bake for 30-35 minutes, or until cake springs back when touched. Yields 10-12 servings.

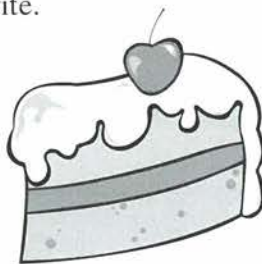
Fluffy Frosting

Submitted by Ed Hilgenbrinck

- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup Crisco

Cook milk and flour until thick. Set aside and allow to cool. Beat sugar and Crisco until fluffy at high speed. Combine frost-

ing mixtures and add flavoring of choice while beating. Continue beating until mixture is good and fluffy. Flavor of choice to one's taste. This frosting stays soft for a long time, does not seem to harden. This was my mother's favorite.



Chicken Casserole

Submitted by Ed Hilgenbrinck

- 1 pkg. frozen broccoli cuts (rinse in cold water to separate)
- 7 oz. spaghetti, cooked and drained
- 2 cups cooked chicken or turkey, cut up
- 1 can sliced mushrooms, drained
- 1/3 cup sliced black olives

Sauce:

- 1/4 cup oleo
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1/2 tsp. lemon pepper
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 2 cups milk

Melt oleo in large saucepan. Stir in flour, salt, pepper and lemon pepper. Stir until smooth and bubbly. Add broth and milk. Bring to boil and boil for 1 minute stirring. Add first 5

ingredients. Turn into 8 x 8 x 2 inch dish. Top with buttered bread crumbs. Bake at 350° F for 45 minutes covered, then 25 minutes more uncovered.

Breakfast in a Blender

Submitted by Pat Dopheide

- 1 ripe peach or banana
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup yogurt
- 1 tsp. honey or maple syrup
- 1 Tbsp. bran cereal

Combine all ingredients in blender or food processor. Process until smooth. Pour into a tall glass and serve immediately. Yield 1 serving.

Country Bacon Potato Salad

Submitted by Patsy Jansen

- 4 cups (1 1/3 lbs) new potatoes, cooked and quartered
- 6 slices Oscar Mayer bacon, crisply cooked, crumbled
- 1/2 cup green pepper, chopped
- 1/2 cup onion, chopped
- 1 cup Miracle Whip
- Salt and pepper

Mix potatoes, bacon, green pepper and onion in large bowl. Add dressing; mix lightly. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Refrigerate. Yield 4 to 6 servings.



In The News...



AEC Supports Biodiesel & Ethanol Enhanced Gasoline

Adams Electric Cooperative's board of directors, general manager Jim Thompson and all the employees want to let the communities and members they serve know they support renewable energy even down to their vehicle fleet.

Biodiesel or gasohol is in the tanks of all cooperative vehicles.

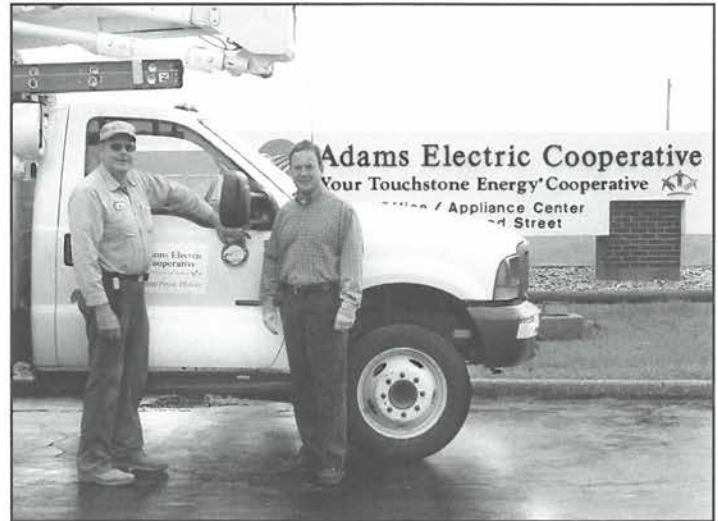
Look for decals proudly displayed in the windows of their trucks.

Every gallon of renewable fuel that replaces a gallon of crude oil-based fuel is a step in reducing

dependency on foreign oil and the general instability in the fuel market. Reducing the demand on crude oil-based fuel will lower prices. Many world events seem to affect fuel prices whether justified or not. Everyone must take steps to provide stability in fuel and energy supplies which have a major impact on our economy.

While supporting the local economy and increasing the demand for corn and soybeans grown by local members, Adams

Electric Cooperative is committed to ensuring that there are continued sources of energy for generations to come.



Adams Electric Cooperative Mechanic Norm Boone and General Manager Jim Thompson show off the new "biodiesel" stickers that will be displayed on all co-op trucks.



SCRANTON HEATING & COOLING

ROUTE 24 EAST MT. STERLING, IL 62353
ESTABLISHED 1985



ARE YOU BUILDING YOUR DREAM HOME THIS YEAR OR THINKING OF UPGRADING YOUR HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEM?
IF SO, BE SURE TO MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION. FOR A FREE LIST OF WEBSITES PACKED FULL OF HELPFUL INFORMATION,



- * GEOTHERMAL
- * HEAT PUMPS
- * FURNACES
- * A/C
- * CENTRAL VACUUMS
- * ELECTRICAL
- * ENTRANCES
- * FIREPLACES

CALL THE COMFORTMAN

(217) 773-2626

www.comfortman.com

WE CAN HELP YOU!!

FEBRUARY Calendar of Events

Quincy United Indoor Soccer Tournament

February 12-14
 Oakley-Lindsay Civic Center,
 Quincy
 (217) 223-1000



KICK-FM Home & Leisure Show

February 12 & 13
 Quincy Mall
 (217) 223-4206

Quincy Symphony Orchestra

February 13, 3:00 pm
 Morrison Theater, Quincy
 (217) 222-2856

Collver Family Winery Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre "Gilligan's Island of Death"

February 14
 Barry
 For tickets, call
 (217) 335-3279



Quincy Community Theatre "Kiss Me Kate"

February 18-20, 23-27
 Oakley-Lindsay Civic Center,
 Quincy
 (217) 222-3209

Bridal Extravaganza

February 26
 Oakley-Lindsay Civic Center
 Everything you need to plan a wedding, Door prizes, fashion show.
 (217) 223-1000



List your events for **FREE!**
 Deadline for submitting
 March Events: February 1



We butcher on
 Monday, Wednesday & Friday.
 Call for an *appointment*.

See our full line of *meat cuts & other products*
 on our website: www.housermeats.com

Houser Meats

(217) 322-4994



Read Your Roof

Your roof has a lot to say. Snow on your roof can give you clues to your attic's insulation problems. Just after a snow, look at your roof. What do you see?

If your roof is completely white, your attic is probably well insulated. There may be areas around roof vents that are melted; that's normal because vents get rid of the warm moist air from the attic.

If large areas of your roof are visible, you may have inadequate insulation. As the heat in your living space rises through the ceilings and to the roof, it melts the frost or snow. Without insulation, there is nothing to hold the heat in the house.

Adding insulation to your attic is usually fairly easy, and is the most cost-effective means of improving your home's efficiency. When purchasing insulation, look for an insulating value of R-38 or more. Be sure to check for air leaks around lights, duct work and entrances to the attic.

Source: *Rural Hilights*

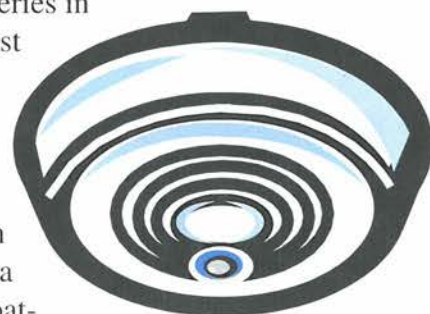
Smoke Alarm Tips

- Test your alarms frequently to make sure the batteries and the unit are functioning properly.

- Replace the batteries in every alarm at least once a year or

if you hear the alarm chirping when there's no smoke or steam in the house. That's a warning that the battery is low. A good way to

remember is to freshen the batteries on the day you set your clocks back or on your birthday.



- Don't borrow the batteries from your smoke alarm to replace the batteries in another appliance. You could forget to replace them.

- Never paint the case of a smoke alarm.

- Replace every alarm before it's 10 years old. The reliability of a smoke alarm diminishes with age.

Fun Fact

Over the past 46 years, Adams Electric has sponsored about 102 students on the Youth to Washington tour.

The Fireplace Superstore!



HEAT-N-GLO®

No one builds a better fire

24-Hour Emergency Service • Free Estimates • Payment Plans
Seamless Guttering • Fireplaces & Accessories • Duct Cleaning

We sell more fireplaces than anyone in the Tri-State Area!

- Electric Fireplaces
- Mantles & Surrounds
- Fireplace Accessories
- Direct Vent & Top Vented Units
- Wood Burning Fireplaces
- Fireplace Inserts
- Multi-sided Fireplaces & More!

It's the area's best selection from people who really know how to save energy!
Expert installation, too!

Peters
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

www.petersheatingandair.com



150 South 2nd • Hamilton, IL (217) 847-2777

4520 Broadway • Quincy, IL • (217) 222-1368

Other locations in Pittsfield, IL • Hannibal & Kirksville, MO

All electric? Get a second meter.

**You won't know
what to do with all the
money you'll save.**

*All electric heating, cooling & water heating
usage can be calculated separately
at only **4.6¢**/kWh, saving you money!*

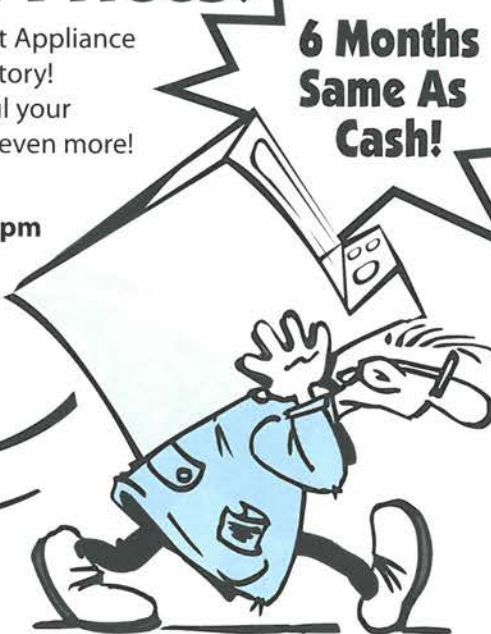


Adams Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Ask for details. Call 1-800-232-4797





**Inventory
Liquidation!**

**Only while
they last!**

FINAL DAYS SALE

Rock Bottom Prices!

Everything must go. The Camp Point Appliance Center is liquidating its entire inventory! Inventory will not be restocked. Haul your appliances home yourself and save even more!

**6 Months
Same As
Cash!**

Shop **Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 5 pm**
Financing Available*

Camp Point
Appliance Center

700 E. Wood St. (Hwy. 24 East) Camp Point
(inside Adams Electric Cooperative)

Call for more details. **(800) 232-4797**

*For qualified buyers. Certain restrictions apply.



This April marks the kickoff of our new fundraising program...we call it "Penny Power."

In this innovative program, similar to "Operation Roundup[®]", members' electric bills are rounded up to the nearest dollar each month. The "small change" (an average of 50¢ per month, or \$6 per year) is then earmarked for community betterment groups and other programs in need of financial assistance.

Members voted and approved this program at the last Annual Meeting in September 2004.

Every member will be automatically included in the program. However, we understand that some members may not be interested in participating. Members may "opt out" of the program at any time.

The success of the program will depend on the level of participation and we are grateful to our membership for supporting this program.

..... Cut here

Opt-Out Form

Please complete and return this form if you are **NOT** interested in participating in the Penny Power fundraising program. If you are interested in the program, you will be included automatically and there is no need to return this form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Remove the following locations from the Penny Power fundraising program:

Map Location # (please list all locations that apply):

Note: If you have multiple locations and want to participate at one of your locations, please list only the "extra" locations that you want removed from the program.

Please enclose this form in the envelope with your next electric bill or mail it to: Adams Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 247, Camp Point, IL 62320.



Volunteer
cooks are
part
of our
electric
co-op.



**Adams Electric
Cooperative**



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections

Adams Electric Cooperative Custodian Joyce Hibbert is a volunteer cook for First Christian Church of Camp Point.