### member connection

## Three electrifying kitchen appliances to save time and energy

by Abby Berry, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)

hether your oven and stove top fairly small, so they won't take up much are powered by gas or electricity, it's no secret they consume more energy than smaller countertop appliances, like slow cookers and toaster ovens. In addition to efficiency, smaller kitchen appliances can provide faster cooking times and less hassle with cleanup.

If you're looking for convenient cooking methods with the added bonus of energy efficiency, here are three electrifying appliances for your kitchen:

1. Air fryers are becoming increasingly popular, and consumers have a lot of good things to say about these handy little appliances. Air fryers convection to circulate hot air and cook the food—this means hot air (convection) little to no oil is to cook the food. This required, resulting in healthier meals than those from those from traditiontraditional ers. Air fryers are



fryers circulate means little to no oil is required, resulting in healthier meals than fry- al fryer. Photo credit: Hamilton Beach. of your counter space, and with everything cooked in the fryer, cleanup will be a breeze. Air fryers are available in a variety of sizes, and prices range from \$40 to \$200+.

2. Electric griddles have certainly been around for a while, and they offer several benefits for any home chef (beyond bacon and eggs!). Griddles are convenient because you can cook everything at once—like a "one-pan" meal, and the possibilities are endless. From fajitas to sandwiches to French toast, griddles can help satisfy any taste buds. They consume small amounts of energy and provide quick cooking times, so your energy bill will thank you. Prices and sizes for griddles vary, but you can typically find one for about \$30 at your local retail stores.



Electric griddles consume small amounts of energy and provide quick cooking times. Photo credit: Hamilton Beach.

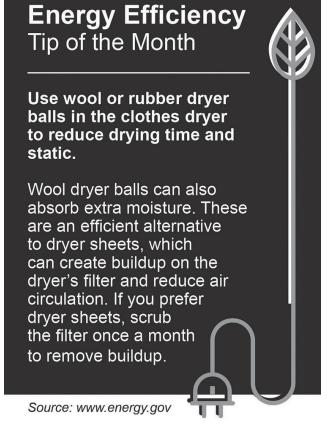
3. Pizza brings people together, so why not consider a pizza maker for your kitchen? These compact, countertop machines are an inexpensive alternative to a costly brick oven, and they use less energy than your traditional

oven. Choose your own fresh ingredients to whip up a faster, healthier pizza at home. Plus, most pizza makers are multifunctional and can Pizza makers are combe used to cook pact and inexpensive, flatbreads, fritta- gy than your traditional and more. You can Hamilton Beach



and they use less enerquesadillas oven. Photo credit:

purchase a pizza maker for about \$30 to \$150+ online or at your local retailer. These are just a few electrifying **L** appliance options for your kitchen. Remember, when you're cooking a smaller meal, countertop appliances can save time and energy. To learn about additional ways to save energy at home, visit Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's website, swce.coop.





the power of human connections

# oar as Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

March 2021

#### inside connections

- 2 Manager Connection
- An air source heat pump for a Minnesota winter
- Cookin' Connection; SWCE community solar update; Steele County Tip Line
- Cooking safety tips
- Ad Connection;
  - 4-Seasons Vacations
- Ad Connection; Touchstone Energy® survey results
- **8** Kitchen appliances saving time and energy; Energy efficiency tip for your clothes drver:
  - Online safety reminder

calendar of events

## March

- Dr. Suess' birthday; **National Read Across** America Day
- "The Star-Spangled Banner" became U.S. national anthem in 1931
- 5 **Employee Appreciation**
- Daylight saving time starts 14
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- First day of spring; International day of happiness
- Palm Sunday

## Happy St. Patrick's Day



WE ARE LUCKY TO HAVE YOU AS A MEMBER!

## Planning for new projects in 2021?

The new construction season is right meter socket. All 200 amp services and ▲ around the corner. If you are planning to upgrade your electrical equipment, or add a new electrical service this year, be sure to communicate your plans with the Operations Division at Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric.

In some cases, Steele-Waseca may need to order the transformer which can take up to 16 weeks. 17614

Keep in mind Steele-Waseca requires new and upgraded services to have a disconnecting means located by the

smaller are required to have a 200 amp bypass meter socket. Also, with the exception of some housing developments in Medford and Lonsdale, Steele-Waseca does not allow the main meter to be installed on buildings.

More information on adding a new electrical service or updating an existing service can be found at the Builders & Electricians link under "SERVICES" on Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop. Swe



### Medford School presented lighting rebate check

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Board President Gary Wilson (center) presented a rebate check for \$26,712 to Medford School Superintendent Mark Ristau, Jan. 6, for the school's LED lighting retrofit project completed this past summer. More than 90 lighting styles were retrofitted with more efficient LED lights, which will allow the school district to experience more than 200,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) saved in one year, equating to more than \$18,000 saved on their electric bill. The presentation included Steele-Waseca Communications Specialist Randy Sobrack (left), who resides in Medford with his family. Steele-Waseca offers numerous rebates for residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural member projects that conserve energy. More information may be found at the co-op's

sparks

Published monthly by **Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric** 2411 W Bridge Street, PO Box 485 Owatonna MN 55060-0485

his institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Website: www.swce.coop Find us on Facebook Email: swce@swce.coop Fax: 507-446-4242

#### **Board of Directors**

PJ Duchene District 1
Geraldine Lienke District 2
Duane Edwardson, Chaplain. District 3
Dennis Ringhofer District 4
Rodney Krell District 5
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Gary Wilson District 6
President, GRE Director
John Beal, Vice President District 7
Ronald Sommers District 8
Renee Malecha District 9
Reflee Malecha District 9

#### Management

Syd Briggs . . . . . . . . . General Manager

#### **Division Managers**

	_
Darla DeVries	Office
David Lundberg	Finance
Dan Meier	Operations

### **Office Hours**

8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

**Operations Office Hours** 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

#### For Customer Service, Billing **Ouestions and Power Outages** Phone:

507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514

#### Before calling to report an outage

- 1. Check fuses and circuit breakers in your home and on meter pole.
- 2. Check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
- 3. Look for possible causes such as a tree branch on wires, a broken pole, twisted wires, etc.

#### To leave a non-emergency message whenever SWCE's Office is closed:

Phone 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514 and listen to the prompts. Please have your account number, phone number, and name on the account available.

> Call *Before* You Dig **Gopher State One Call** 811 or 800-252-1166

48-hour notice required for ALL underground cable locations

### manager connection



By Syd Briggs, General Manager

Tany of you are **V⊥**interested in doing your part in helping the environment

by reducing our car-

bon footprint, both individually and as a cooperative; and almost everyone is interested in saving money and energy cost. But wouldn't it be great if you could do both?

Well, you can! It's through a concept called "beneficial electrification." This utility industry term means the innovations in energy technologies are creating new ways to use electricity instead of onsite fossil fuels, such as propane, natural gas, and fuel oil, in a way that reduces overall emissions and energy costs.

In essence, by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. As Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric and our power supplier, Great River Energy, shift to more options that include renewable energy sources to make existing generation technologies cleaner, electricity will require less fossil fuel per kilowatt-hour of energy produced.

Here's how this concept impacts you. It means that *electric* appliances such as your water heater, clothes dryer, oven, and even your lawn care equipment have the potential to become greener. When Steele-Waseca and Great River Energy take advantage of advances in technology and the market at the generation point (how the electricity is produced), it means those efficiencies are inherently passed along to you—the consumer-member.

#### Electricity is getting cleaner

Because large appliances have a typical lifespan of about 10 years, it means you are able to benefit from the flexibility of the grid in addition to the increased efficiency of the particular appliance.

In other words, the high efficiency electric oven you have today could be powered by renewable sources in the near future. This would not be the case with gas appliances where you are essentially locked into the technology of that gas appliance for the 10-year lifespan.

As Steele-Waseca is able to tap into more renewable options in the future, your electric appliance has the potential to become greener and more energy ef-

ficient. The only way you would be able to benefit from this trend is through an electric appliance.

#### Small steps to help the environment

For consumers and homeowners looking for more environmentally-friendly options, choosing electric appliances, tools, and cars over those powered by fossil fuels is an easy solution. Whether through electric lawn mowers, blowers, and weed whackers (plug-in or rechargeable), or through electric water heaters (visit swce. coop for Steele-Waseca's electric water heater program), and other appliances, beneficial electrification is a means to reducing greenhouse gases and helping our environment. 29313

It can also translate into a better quality of life. For example, when you can trade the loud rumble of a gas-powered mower or blower for the quiet efficiency of electric versions, you eliminate the exhaust emissions and the unpleasant noise.

#### How we're doing our part to help the environment

As the overall energy sector continues to evolve, Steele-Waseca is striving to take advantage of the advances in technology and the opportunities of the market as they become available. This means Steele-Waseca can leverage the flexibility of the grid to offer a wider range of renewable power selections as we continue to bring safe, reliable, and affordable power to the communities in our service area.

We also promote energy efficiency through our residential rebate programs, off peak, and dual fuel. In addition, through our Steele-Waseca app, the coop offers our members the convenience and ability to manage and monitor their

We care about the communities in our service area because we live here too. I hope you'll reach out to Steele-Waseca, your trusted energy partner, to discuss available renewable energy options, and to learn about more ways to reduce your energy use. Because when you participate in the energy efficiency programs and incentives we offer, you're doing your part to save energy and better our environment. While each member's reduction might be small, together, they can lead to significant savings of money and emissions—and that means a brighter future for *all* of us.

#### ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6) MIXED GRASS HAY, sm. sq., no rain, 1st & 2nd cut.

SAKO TIKKA T3 LITE IN 243 WIN SYN, new in box, \$625: **REM 870 LAM 12-GA.**, new, \$400; **APF AR-**10 COMPLETE UPPER IN 243 WIN, stainless fluted hvy barrel, new, \$950. 461-1191.

(5) ANGUS FEEDER CALVES, 500-lbs, 332-2567.

STRAIGHT GRASS BALES. & MIXED ALFALFA & GRASS BALES, sm. sq., \$4/bale. 612-756-1131.

HONEYBEES, 3# Italian pkgs, early April, Owat. delivery, call for prices. 456-0753

4 X 5 MIXD GRASS HAY ROUND BALES & CORN-STALK BALES, net wrapped, no rain. 451-5131

CIRCLE LK LOT, 0.7 acres; (2) DOWNHILL ROS-**SIGNOL SKIS.** 678-978-7444

BRUNSWICK AM RADIO from the '30s, wood cabinet, stands 3' tall, 120V, no speaker, \$35/obo. 952-

2 LEVEL LAKEFRONT CABINS, Lk Mazaska, 2-bdrm. 1-ba. not leased land. 74 shared acres. \$189,900 & \$224,900 respectively.763-218-2948/txt.

1992 JEEP CHEROKEE, rusty. 383-1021.

EXTENDABLE TOW HITCH WT., about 75 lbs w/ mounting bracket, 60" wide closed, extended 44" deep to center of hitch pin hole, \$250. 553-5530.

Ads need to be received in the Steele-Waseca office by Friday, March 5, to ensure being published in the April 2021 Sparks newsletter.

assumes complete liability for the content of, and all replies to, any advertisement and for any claims against SWCE as a result thereof, and agrees to in-demnify and hold SWCE harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) assumes no liability for the content of, or reply to, any item posted. The party posting any advertisemen

## Takeaways from the 2020 Touchstone Energy Cooperative Difference survey

by Victoria A. Rocha, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) staff writer

Tear after year, electric cooperatives score higher than their utility counterparts in Touchstone Energy® Cooperative's Survey on the Cooperative Difference—and the 2020 results show that satisfaction and engagement scores are even higher among respondents expressing some degree of member or owner identity.

Co-ops participating in the recently released National Survey on the Cooperative Difference averaged a score of 85, compared to 72 for investor-owned utilities and municipal utilities, in the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI), a cross-industry tool used by researchers.

But when survey respondents viewed themselves as members and not just customers, those scores were even higher, 90 versus 81, 1002624

"Moving consumers from a 'customer' focus to a 'member' or 'owner' identity pays immediate dividends through higher satisfaction and engagement scores," according to the 2020 survey, which involved nearly 11,500 interviews with members of 47 co-ops in 17

While higher levels of engagement and satisfaction generally correlate with older age groups, ACSI scores rose by four points over the 2019 survey for the 35-44 age group. That increase is likely related to the Young Adult Member Engagement initiative, a collaboration beTouchstone Energy, said Jana Adams, executive director of Touchstone Energy.

"The collaboration between NRECA and Touchstone Energy has provided more 90 information and more resources to effectively engage with this age group," said Adams. "Last year, we saw new and contin- 40 ued outreach efforts, 30 such as virtual annual meetings, that allow more opportunities to showcase the cooperative difference and reach new audiences."

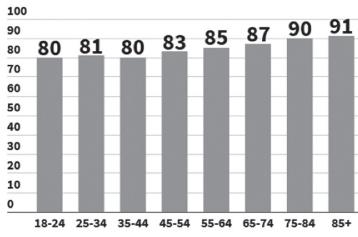
Member trust is

another area where cooperatives outpaced the competition. When compared to smart technology powerhouses such as Amazon, Google and Nest, rural electric co-ops received significantly higher ratings.

For the first time, researchers asked members whether they rely on co-ops or the internet for information on smart devices and other emerging technology. Here, too, co-ops fared better than industry powerhouses. Co-ops received 8.4 out of 10, compared to 7.78 for

tween NRECA and AMERICAN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION INDEX **SCORES BY AGE GROUP** 

The chart below shows the 2020 National Survey on the Cooperative Difference ACSI scores for eight age groups from the survey sample.



Source: Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative

Amazon, 7.4 for Google, and 6.87 for Nest, which is owned and operated by Google.

66 Touchstone Energy's goal of positioning our co-ops as the trusted source for their membership is clear in this research," said Adams. "With the uncertainty everyone experienced in 2020, members really got a sense of just how valuable their electric co-op is to their community."

## Is my off peak/dual fuel being controlled today?

Visit Great River Energy's website at <a href="https://www.greatriverenergy.com">www.greatriverenergy.com</a> and click on "Load Management"

> **Need a history of controls?** Click on "History" on the "Load Management" page

sparks • march 2021 sparks • march 2021

### ad connection

#### give away

**FREE ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS,** you place & remove your own ad on SWCE's website, <a href="mailto:swce.coop">swce.coop</a>, these are separate from <a href="mailto:Sparks">Sparks</a> will not appear in <a href="mailto:Sparks">Sparks</a> unless mailed, delivered, faxd or emailed to SWCE.

#### wanted

**WILL ASSIST PEOPLE IN THEIR HOMES** w/personal cares, exercises, errands, housekeeping, 40+yrs experience, references avail. 456-0076.

JUNKERS OR REPAIRABLES, top \$ pd. 332-2300

GUNS; AMMO; METAL SIGNS; TACKLE; ESTATES. 279-0431/Mark.

**FERTILE BROODING CHICKEN EGGS TO INCU-BATE** (not banties), brown preferred, need (5) dozen. 330-8361.

POTATO LIFTR, used & wrking. 651-357-5092/Paul.

150' CONCRETE FIELD DRAINAGE TILE, 6"x12" 271-9411.

FORD DIESEL SKID STEER. 330-1849.

CARPORT w/steel roof. 461-1865.

2010-15 PICKUP, 1/2 ton, 4x4, low miles, 451-2722

**UNWANTED BIKES & LAWN MOWERS,** \$ pd on delivered. 330-3178.

GATOR™ UTIL. VEH. OR GOLF CART; DRYWALL TAPER & MUDDER, TILE PERSON; CARPENTER to build porch & repair outbuildings; OLD BARN OR GAR. to save/move onto our proprty. 612-598-4005.

**HANDICAPPED CHAIR STAIR LIFT** for at least (9) steps, gently used. 327-3626.

**JAR OF OLD BUTTONS**, all sizes & colors, especially red & yellow needed for an art project. 463-3721.

**USED TYPEWRITERS,** repairable, no junk, manual, old. 339-8577.

TABLE SAWS, 10-12". 363-6199.

RAT TERRIER PUPPY. 390-5964

#### for sale

For Sale

WHEAT & OAT STRAW, sm. sq., \$4.50/bale; (15) BERKSHIRE FINISHD HOGS, \$1/lb./live; FINISHED BEEF STEERS, HEIFERS ANGUS, 995-7021.

5th will be printed in the May issue.

#### All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

7' GOLDEN WEST POOL TABLE, (3) pcs, slate, light oak in color, is apart—ready to move, \$450. 475-2214.

TREE TRIMMING, REMOVAL, & STUMP GRIND., pro climber & aerial lift to U of M guidelines; 20' MISTY HARBOR PONTOON, TRAILER & LIFT w/canopy. 456-1609.

BRIGGS & STRATTON LAWN MOWER MOTOR, 17.5 gross hp, runs gd, \$175. 583-6679.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

CABELA'S HUNTING BOOTS, Gore-Tex, Thinsulate, size 8, (2) pair, \$50 for both; (7) FLUORES-CENT LIGHTS, \$40 for all. 455-3881.

**ENGINES**, **TRANSMISSIONS**, **USED AUTO PARTS**, 30-day warranty on eng. & trans. 332-2300.

CRAFTSMAN RADIAL ARM SAW, like new, \$200/obo; ANTIQUE NATIONAL CASH REGISTER, \$200/obo 440-8831

**ALFALFA/GRASS MIX HAY BALES,** full size, sm. sq., great quality, no rain. 451-2978.

VARIETY OF MEN'S & WOMEN'S OLD WEST/FRONTIER CLOTHING incl. hats, skirts, vests, frocks, shirts, trousers & accessories.952-451-4821.

MINI STORAGE UNITS FOR RENT in Ellendale.

**GRASS HAY BALES**, sm. square, by Waldorf, \$6. 327-3672

VERSA-MAX SNOWMOBILE TRAILER, exc. cond., "2 UP." 339-1986.

BEACHFRONT VACATION CONDOS FOR RENT in Fort Myers Beach, South Padre Island & Mexico, visit <a href="https://www.sandysbeachfrontcondo.com">www.sandysbeachfrontcondo.com</a> for details & photos. 612-865-9604/Sandy.

**FARMALL WIDE FRONT ORIG. EQUIP.,** came off Farmall 560, \$600/cash. 456-0835.

**GRASS HAY,** 5x6 round bales, 2 crop, no rain. 451-3456.

2013 CFM 185 COMP., \$10,000; REFRIG. AIR DRY-ERS, \$100/ea.; AUGERS & ELEV., \$50-\$100/ea.; TRUCK TOOLBOXES, \$50-\$100/ea.; '98 FORD ESCORT FOR PARTS, \$250. 271-6592.

SEVERAL POOL CUES, exc. cond. 451-5172.

**Sparks** Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by March 5 to ensure being printed in the April

Sparks. Please print neatly or type your ad of 20 words or less on this form. We

reserve the right to edit ad copy to allow space for more ads. Ads received after the

☐ Wanted

Clip and mail to: SWCE, PO Box 485, Owatonna MN 55060-0485, or

## FORTUNE CREEK TRL LOTS, the covenant allows for a pole shed, starting at \$75,000, 838-5033/John.

TV ANTENNA, new w/UHF-VHF, ideal for house, cabin, fish house, \$50; CEDAR MAILBOX POST, new, \$10.334-3804.

**2003 FORD F-150 PICKUP**, 4x4 w/bed liner, running boards, new tires, & heated leather seats. 685-2415.

(2) FRIGIDAIRE STOVES; FRIGIDAIRE UPRIGHT FREEZER; (3) TABLES W/CHAIRS; COUCH; RCA RECORD PLAYER CABINET; ENTERTAINMENT CENTER. 213-0443.

CLIMATE CONTROLLED UNITS FOR RENT, 11'x9' to 16'x10' 332-4623

**BOAT LIFT COVER,** 8' wide x 20' long, new/nev-er used, off a FLOE lift, may fit others, \$400/obo. 451-9614

6000 SERIES CORN PLANTER w/monitor, 32" rows, \$3000; JD 6600 GAS COMBINE, 4-ROW CORN HD, & BEAN HD, odometer 2963, \$4000; (each always shedded). Email: <a href="mailto:eakerdr@gmail.com">eakerdr@gmail.com</a>.

**DUMP TRUCK SERVICES,** 15.5-ton capacity for all your hauling needs: rock, gravel, dirt, etc. 456-7774.

**RENTAL**, Izaak Walton League Bldg., 4 mi. south of Owat., seats 100, full kitchen, grill, Wi-Fi, \$125. 451-7946.

SHINGLING & LIGHT CONSTRUCTION, free estimates. 456-0296.

**GRASS HAY,** sm. square bales, \$35/bale; **FISHER V-PLOW,** stainless, loaded, \$7500; **2000 FORD,** 3/4 ton, (4) door, 245,000 mi., 5.4 engine, \$4800. 456-1181.

(2) DEEDED LAKE ACCESS LOTS on 232nd St. W., on Cannon Lake, just outside of Warsaw. 612-247-2957.

**(2) LP LIGHTS** for fish house, \$15/each or \$25/both 951-2568.

**DROP LEAF CUTTING TABLE** (do texting), sewer's delight, 36x60. 327-2990.

'38 FORD PKUP, 5-spd OD, Ranger 4L, V6 motor & chassis, tilt hood, new box & tires/chrome wheels, in primer—you paint your color. 327-3626.

**SCHWINN 569 ALUM.**, 14-spd, 700x35c, men's, \$150; **TREK ANTELOPE 800**, 18-spd, 26x175, \$50. 330-3178.

GOLF CARTS: '95 Yamaha; '10 Club Car. 456-1629

**CABIN** to be moved, 820 sq. ft, (2) br, (1) ba, Cannon Lk. 951-1271.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

#### travel

Call 4-Seasons at 373-4705 or 373-2473, from 9 a.m. to noon Mondays, to learn more about their tour information.



fax to: (507) 446-4242 or email your ad to: sparks@swce.coop.

sparks • march 2021

Give Away

#### member connection

## A heat pump built for Minnesota winters and summers

Air source heat pumps (ASHPs) have been used for

many years in nearly all parts of the United States, but, until recently, were not common in areas with extended periods of subfreezing temperatures.

However, in recent years, cold-climate ASHP (ccASHP) technology has advanced so it now offers a legitimate space heating alternative in colder regions, like Minnesota.

A ccASHP can provide both efficient heating and cooling for your home. When properly installed, it can deliver up to three times more heat energy to a home than the electrical energy it consumes. This is possible because a heat pump moves heat rather than converting it from a fuel like combustion heating systems do.

A project recently conducted by the Center for Energy and Environment found the efficiency of the newest generation of ccASHPs can operate down to minus 13 degrees Fahrenheit. The efficiency of these technologies in moderate climates is also two- to three-times more efficient than standard electric heating systems.

Since heat pumps provide heating in the winter and cooling in the summer, you should be aware of at least two heat pump energy efficiency ratings. The Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) measures cooling efficiency over the cooling season, while the Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) measures heating efficiency over the heating season. Giv-

en we are still in a Minnesota winter, let's further explore the heating aspect.

HSPF is a standardized rating used tocompare energy efficiencies. HSPF is used by all heat pump manufacturers to indicate efficiency ratings. Like miles per gallon for your car, the higher the HSPF number, the more efficient the system.

Heat pumps, when properly installed, provide members with several distinct advantages:

- When sized appropriately, today's ccASHPs can provide 100% of a home's heating needs down to temperatures as low as zero degrees, which is roughly 90% of all heating hours in Minnesota. If properly set, an ASHP can serve as your primary source for a good part of our Minnesota winters. 1021241
- The balance point of your heat pump is the outdoor temperature at which your home HVAC system switches over to its backup heating system, likely set by your installer. If your heat pump can keep your home warm down to 10° F, but your balance point is set to switch over to backup heat at that same temperature, then anytime it's in the 10- to 15-degree Fahrenheit range, you'll be

Heat from

A heat pump extracts heat

Using recycled heat means

the heat pump heats more

efficiently.

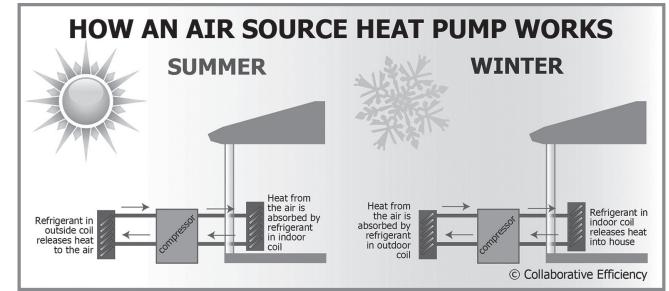
from the outside to the inside.

paying more than you should for heat.

• Aren't sure of your ASHP balance point? Take note of the temperature where your backup heating source kicks in, and if it's above 10° F, your balance point may be set too high. If you have already installed an ASHP, you may also want to contact your installation contractor to inquire further and ensure your balance point is where you want it to be.

Should you have any additional questions, please contact Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric during regular business hours. Be sure to continue looking for additional ways to improve the energy efficiency of your home, and

take advantage of the rebates Steele-Waseca has to offer by visiting the coop's website, swce.coop.



sparks • march 2021

#### cookin' connection

**Delores Kalina** 

## **Jello Flavored Sugar Cookies**

1 box or pkg white cake mix (1) 3 oz. pkg JELL-O (use cherry, orange, lime, or lemon) 1/2 c. vegetable oil 2 large eggs

Combine cake mix and Jello gelatin dessert. Whisk in vegetable oil and eggs. Mix well. Roll into about 24 balls. Place on 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Bake at 350° for 10 minutes. Makes colorful cookies depending on which Jello was used.

Please use a 3 x 5 card when submitting your recipe. The member whose recipe is published will receive a \$7 energy credit.



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's solar subscribers will see a 17 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during January 2021. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, <a href="mailto:swce.coop">swce.coop</a>.

## Was your account number in Sparks?

Each month five account numbers are printed in Sparks and a total of \$35 in energy credits is divided among however many of those numbers are found. For example, if all numbers are found, a credit of \$7 will be applied to the members' following month's electric bills: or, if only one number is found, that member receives the full \$35 credit. Members finding their numbers who have a load management receiver on their dual fuel, electric water heater, air conditioner, or genset will receive an additional \$7 credit. When you find your number, phone our office no later than the 7th of the month following receipt of the Sparks, or the amount will be forfeited. 1071830

## February issue of Sparks



## **Numbers found:**

None found by those members

#### **Numbers not found:**

Michael Jirele Susan Ewanga Robert Tuma Debra Aase Daryl Neigebauer



## Sparks in brief . . .

Lonsdale

- Want easy energy payments? Sign up for EnergyPay Plus, our automatic payment plan, or Energy Prepay, our discounted advance payment plan. Contact our office for details. You may also pay your bill online at www.swce.coop. By entering your Steele-Waseca username and password you can also view a 13month history of your account.
- If you have changed or added phone **numbers**, please contact SWCE to update your contact information.
- Need a new water heater? For information about our Westinghouse Electric Water Heater Program, phone Cindy Butterfield at our office between 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 446-4204 / 800-526-3514.
- January temps The average high temperature for January was 27° F, while the average low was 12° F. This resulted in 1,396.5 Heating Degree Days (HDDs), and 0 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 25° F and average low of 12° F. This resulted in 1,428.5 HDDs and 0 CDDs.
- ENERGY STAR® Rebates In 2021, all ENERGY STAR refrigerators/freezers (with recycling), electric clothes dryers, dehumidifiers, central air conditioners, air and ground source heat pumps, light emitting diode (LED) bulbs purchased (limit 5) are eligible to receive rebates (may not be combined with special promotions). Rebate request forms must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. Rebate forms are available at www.swce.coop. For more information or to receive a rebate request form, phone Cindy Butterfield at 446-4204 or 800-526-3514.
- Steele-Waseca's tree service contractor - Carr's Tree Service, Inc., is contracted to do SWCE's tree trimming. To report a tree concern, phone:

507-451-7340 / 800-526-3514

### STEELE COUNTY TIP LINE

866-878-7964

TO BE USED TO REPORT ANY CRIME OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY ANONYMOUSLY

**COVERS ALL OF STEELE COUNTY INCLUDING THE CITIES OF:** 

**OWATONNA ELLENDALE BLOOMING PRAIRIE MEDFORD** 

## health & safety connection



))) Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed

- alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- ))) Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- ))) If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

#### IF YOU HAVE A COOKING FIRE...

- ))) Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- ))) Call **9-1-1** or the local emergency number after you leave.
- ))) If you try to fight the fire, be sure others are getting out and you have a clear way out.
- ))) Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- ))) For an oven fire turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

Your Source for SAFETY Information NFPA NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

### **FACTS**

- 1 The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- (1) Most cooking fires in the home involve the stovetop.



www.nfpa.org/education

sparks • march 2021 sparks • march 2021