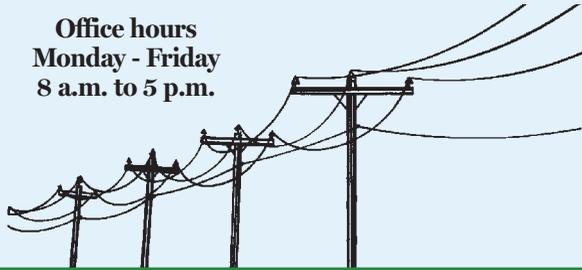


Office hours
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 100 Malinta, OH 43535
Office Calls: 419-256-7900
www.tricountyelectriccoop.coop



TRUSTEES

Steven Hoffman.....	President
Lawrence Weirich	Vice President
Bradley Haupricht Sr.....	Secretary/Treasurer
Kenneth Brubaker	Johney Ritz
Dustin Sonnenberg	John Schuchert

EMPLOYEES

Brett Perkins, Manager	Craig Wilson
Doug Hall	Jason Warnimont
Sue Bockelman	Jeremy Warnimont
Chris Okuley	Tom Jones
Tyler Flory	Deb Stuller
Sandy Corey	

To report a power outage: 888-256-9858

Your call will be answered by the Cooperative Response Center. Give them the name on your account, service address and a telephone number where you can be reached.

They will dispatch a line crew to restore service.

Be sure to check your fuse or breaker system before reporting a power outage.

Jackpot news!

Neither **Don Bost Jr.** of rural Napoleon nor **Debra Fedderke** of rural Delta reported spotting their hidden account number in the April issue of *Country Living*. Had either done so, they would have won half the jackpot and received a check for **\$35**.

Your account number is on your bill statement. Disregard the zeros at the left in the number, but consider any zeros to the right when converting your number to words.

The hidden account numbers always are in Tricounty's local pages of the magazine. The jackpot now stands at \$50. So read *Country Living*, find your hidden account number, report it and win!

Over-regulation leads to higher electric bills

WHAT WOULD YOU DO to keep your electric bill from going up \$100 a month?

That's a lot of money, no matter how you slice it. And if the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has its way with proposed regulations, Tricounty's wholesale power costs will skyrocket, along with your electric bill.

In June, the EPA is expected to release regulations for power plants already in operation, including Cardinal Station, which supplies your power. For about the past decade, more than \$1 billion has been spent to make Cardinal Station one of the cleanest power plants fueled by coal in the entire world. These improvements were made to comply with impending regulations, but also because it was just the right thing to do for our environment.

But the EPA has changed its mind — being clean isn't good enough. Now, the federal agency wants to impose rules that will most likely eliminate coal as a fuel source for new power plants.

We don't know exactly what the EPA has in store for existing power plants like Cardinal, but it's clear the EPA wants to keep coal from being used at all as a fuel source for electricity. That's bad news for Ohio's electric coopera-

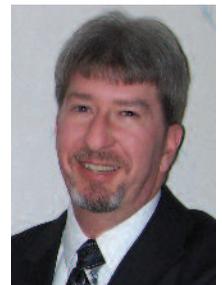
tives because 90 percent of our electricity is generated by coal. Five One Two Four Zero One

And if we see in June the regulations we anticipate, your electric bill could go up by as much as \$100 a month — or even more.

Back to my initial question. What would you do to keep that from happening? Would you take 30 seconds to go online or fill out a postcard to tell the EPA to withdraw its proposed rules, and keep some common sense in regulations?

You can visit www.Action.coop to complete a quick form that electronically sends a message to the EPA. Or look for a postcard you can fill out and mail back, postage paid, in next month's issue of *Country Living*.

We're all for clean air and water; that's why we invested so much money at Cardinal Station. But we also work to keep your electric service as affordable and reliable as possible. We'll do all we can, but there is strength in numbers — thank you for your support and lending your voice in this fight against over-regulation. ☺



Brett Perkins
General Manager

UNDERSTANDING ENERGY

Take the guesswork out of shopping for lights

BY B. DENISE HAWKINS

IF YOU HAVE BEEN gradually making the switch to the new energy-efficient lighting choices, you've noticed that more changes have come to the lightbulb aisle. Today's lighting choices have expanded and gotten serious makeovers — their packaging labels and lingo included. There are LEDs, CFLs, halogen, lumens, CRI and more, and there is a host of lighting brands. But in recent years, the focus has been on making all bulbs more energy efficient and cost-effective.

End of an era

We've basked in the golden glow of Thomas Edison's incandescent bulb since the 1800s, but this January marked the end of its run. That's when the federal government finalized its mandated phase-out of selected general-purpose lightbulbs and Edison's less-energy-efficient incandescent ones. While you still may find 100- and 75-watt bulbs on store shelves, manufacturers in the U.S. stopped producing them. The old 40- and 60-watt bulbs, which represented over half the market, are following suit.

What brought about the lighting change? Old-fashioned incandescent bulbs used a lot of energy but produced only 10 percent light, with 90 percent of the energy given off as heat. In comparison, today's more energy-saving incandescent lightbulbs use 25 percent less energy to do the job of lighting the same spaces in your home.

Look on the bright side

Prime replacements for the traditional incandescent lightbulb are the higher-efficiency CFL and LED, or light-emitting diode, bulbs. But be prepared to pay more up front for some of the bulbs you choose. Lighting experts say that LEDs are the best choice for energy efficiency and if price is not a concern, they can last for up to two decades, save you 75 percent or more in energy costs, and offer superior color and brightness. But they can cost about \$10 to \$60 per bulb.

DOE assures consumers that there is a bright side: lower electricity bills over the longer term. The agency estimates that using a traditional incandescent bulb adds about \$4.80 per year to the average household electric bill, but a CFL bulb adds just \$1.20 a year and an LED about \$1 per year. That means that a typical household could save about \$50 per year by replacing 15 old incandescent bulbs with new efficient models.

Lighting the way

Because lighting accounts for nearly 20 percent of the average home's electricity use, don't stay in the dark when shopping for new bulbs that save on energy and your electric bill. Things to know before you go:

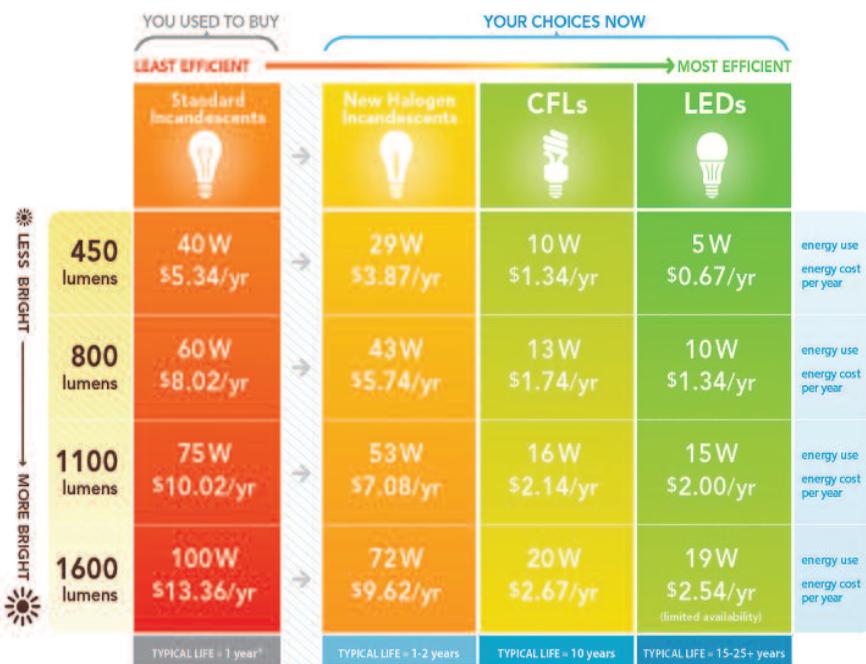
- **Lumens are the new watts.** It's all about the lumens or the amount of light a lightbulb emits. Remember this formula: The higher the lumens, the brighter the light, so to replace a 100-watt incandescent bulb, choose a bulb that offers about 1,600 lumens. Charts at

www.energystar.gov help you compare the old measure of watts to lumens.

- **Take three steps to your new bulbs.**

STEP 1: Choose the amount of lumens you need based on how bright you want a room. STEP 2: Determine which bulb has the lowest estimated energy cost per year. This will save you the most money. STEP 3: Choose bulbs based on your needs — how long it will last and light appearance.

- **Read the label.** Always check the package, making sure that it carries the ENERGY STAR logo, which certifies products that use even less energy than federally mandated levels. New Lighting Facts labels on boxes will also help consumers understand what they are purchasing, including lumens, estimated annual operating cost and light color. ☞



* rated life is based on 3 hours of use per day

Source: Natural Resources Defense Council

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, Natural Resources Defense Council

Tricounty awards 7 scholarships to local students



Earning scholarships from Tricounty were (from left) Amy Harley, Magdalena Schroeder, Kristi Walker, Madalyn Fletcher, Taylor DeSmith and Anna Schmenk. Not pictured is Tyler Moore.

TRICOUNTY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES presented seven scholarship awards at its April meeting. Board president Steven Hoffman distributed a total of \$3,550 to the students. This is one of the ways the cooperative supports the communities it serves. Four Zero Three Two Zero Zero Zero

Receiving awards were:

- Kristi Walker of Liberty Center High School
- Anna Schmenk of Patrick Henry High School

- Madalyn Fletcher of Bowling Green High School
- Taylor DeSmith of Bowling Green High School
- Amy Harley of Anthony Wayne High School
- Magdalena Schroeder of Leipsic High School
- Tyler Moore of Holgate High School

Kristi Walker represented Tricounty at the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives statewide competition, held April 9 in Columbus. ☞

2014 Annual Meeting to be at Patrick Henry High School

Plans are underway for Tricounty's 77th annual meeting of members on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at Patrick Henry High School, on State Route 18, just east of Hamler.

Registration will open at 5:30 p.m. with a delicious dinner beginning at 6 p.m. The business meeting will be called to order at 7 p.m. and will conclude with a door prize drawing.

This is a great opportunity to visit with your neighbors and friends, elect two trustees to represent you on the Tricounty board and hear reports on the operation of your cooperative. A gift will be provided for each membership represented in person. We look forward to seeing you Sept. 17.

- What:** 2014 Annual Meeting
- Where:** Patrick Henry High School, State Route 18, east of Hamler
- When:** Wednesday, Sept. 17
- Who:** All Tricounty members are invited to attend!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

September 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Co-op membership: What's in it for me?

EXPLORING THE UNIQUE BENEFITS OF COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

BY **ABBY BERRY**

YOU SET UP YOUR electric service account with Tricounty, and you think to yourself, "That's done. Now I just have to pay my monthly bill." But the truth is we're more than just a utility provider that you pay each month for electricity. We have more to offer, and we want you, our members, to know about these benefits.

There are more than 900 electric cooperatives in the U.S. that serve 42 million members. Tricounty serves 4,375 meters with lines stretching across 616 miles. So what makes being a member of an electric cooperative unique?

We're all in this together. You are a member of Tricounty — not a customer. And that means you have a voice when it comes to the way we do business. Each September, you have the option to vote for your board of trustees. These trustees play a key role in making important decisions for our co-op, which is why it's so important that members vote in these elections. Trustees are your representatives in conducting the co-op's business.

We're local. It's likely that you know an employee of Tricounty. Our employees — your friends and neighbors — share the same concerns for our community that you do. Each year, Tricounty participates in 4-H clubs, school safety demonstrations, the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour and scholarships. To learn more about our mission to strengthen our community, visit www.tricountyelectriccoop.coop.

We're not-for-profit. Tricounty doesn't offer profits to investors — we return money over and above operating costs to you, our members, based on electricity consumption. Annually, electric co-ops nationwide return millions of dollars to members via "capital credits." Last year, Tricounty members received \$610,000 in capital credits.

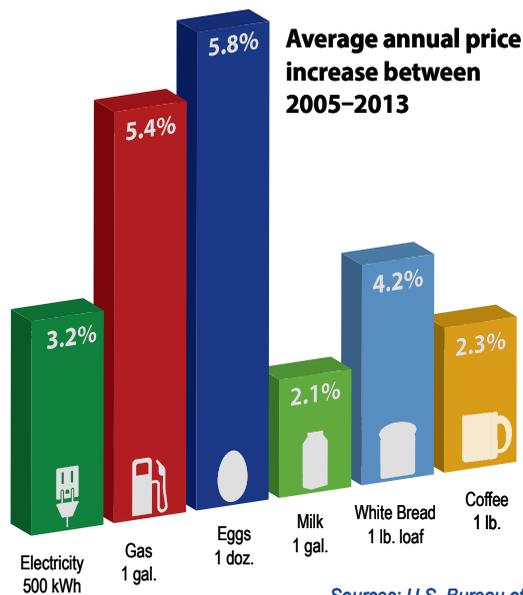
We're here for you. At Tricounty, our mission is to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. We care about our members' quality of life, which is why our employees are continually finding innovative ways to improve our service.

These are just a few facts about electric cooperatives that make us unique. For more information about Tricounty and the services we offer, visit www.tricountyelectriccoop.coop. ☺

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Electricity Remains a Good Value

Electricity continues to be a bargain, especially when compared to other consumer goods. As demand for energy rises and fuel prices increase, your electric cooperative is committed to providing safe, reliable electricity and keeping your electric bills affordable.



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Mainstream Graphics



Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative hopes all dads have a great Father's Day!