



From the desk of Travis Mathes, Manager of Member Services

“At the end of the day it’s not about what you have or even what you’ve accomplished....It’s about who you’ve lifted up, who you’ve made better. It’s about what you’ve given back.” This quote from Denzel Washington reflects the way that all types of cooperative’s do business across the nation. Concern for community is one of our guiding principles. With Valentine’s Day approaching, I can not think of a better time to express how much Lewis County REC loves the communities we serve and serving you our member/owners.

We know that when we helped bring electricity to rural Northeast Missouri back in 1936, the quality of life improved for everyone. Through the years as other issues have needed tackled we have tried to be at the forefront helping to address those issues. Electric cooperatives were born in politics as part of FDR’s new deal and we work daily to make sure that politics doesn’t affect the way we do business. We work hand in hand with elected officials locally and nationally to ensure that the communities that we serve can continue to thrive. We want to continue to meet the needs of Northeast Missouri for years to come and ensure that growth and prosperity continue for our member/owners. Our employees and directors, just like you, live here and want to see our communities continue to thrive for generations to come.

While our top priority and missions to is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to our member/owners, equally important is our hope to enrich lives throughout our service territory. The focus to benefit all of Northeast Missouri is central to the way we operative as a cooperative. Lewis County REC knows that electricity is a critical need for modern day life, but it takes more than poles and wire to make a community.

Overtime, Lewis County REC has evolved to meet the changing needs of Northeast Missouri, thereby, improving the quality of life for everyone. We continue to explore avenues that can benefit our member/owners, as well as, Northeast Missouri as a whole. We continue to invest in our youth through programs such as Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., CYCLE in Jefferson City, and scholarships to help them pay for higher education. We invest in the continuing education of our area’s teachers, by sending them to them to electrical education training. We take a lead in Economic Development efforts, not only to attract new business, but retain the businesses we have. Our REC Cares Foundation, which is funded by you rounding your bill up the next whole dollar, provides funding for numerous projects that benefit the communities we serve. We are trying to take the lead in bringing electric vehicles to the forefront in our region, not only at your home, farm, or business, but also at our local school districts.

I could go on and on about how things have evolved through the past 84 years of Lewis County REC’s existence, but the one thing that has remained constant is our commitment to Northeast Missouri. We are proud to power your life and bring good things to our communities. The energy landscape is undergoing dramatic change fueled by evolving technology and member/owners’ desires for more options. Rest assured that we continue to look to the future to be able to meet your growing needs and desires. While the large environment in which we operate is constantly changing, one thing remains the same. By working together, I’m certain that we can continue to do great things in Northeast Missouri. Happy Valentine’s Day from all of us at Lewis County REC!



Be sure to follow us on Facebook for up to date information, as well as, energy efficiency and safety tips.

Lewis County REC offers rebates to their members on:

- **Electric Vehicles**
- **Electric Water Heaters**
- **Ground Source Heat Pumps**
- **Air to Air Heat Pumps**
- **Dual Fuel Heat Pumps**

Contact the office or go to www.lewiscountyrec.coop for more information



Advanced framing techniques build in efficiency

Sometimes called optimum value engineering, advanced house framing uses techniques to reduce the amount of lumber and waste in the construction of a wood-framed house. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, these techniques boost energy efficiency by replacing lumber with insulation while maintaining the structural integrity of the home.

Advanced framing improves the whole-wall R-value by reducing thermal bridging (thermal flow that occurs when materials that are poor insulators displace insulation) through the framing and maximizing the insulated wall area.

Advanced framing techniques include:

- Designing on 2-foot modules to make the best use of common sheet sizes and reduce waste and labor
- Spacing wall studs up to 24 inches on center
- Spacing floor joists and roof rafters up to 24 inches on center
- Using two-stud corner framing and inexpensive dry-wall clips or scrap lumber for drywall backing instead of studs
- Eliminating headers in non-load-bearing walls
- Using in-line framing in which floor, wall and roof framing members are vertically in line with one another and loads are transferred directly downward
- Using single lumber headers and top plates when appropriate

This approach results in a structurally sound home with lower material and labor costs than a conventionally framed house. Advanced framing techniques can be implemented individually or as a complete package. Fully implementing advanced framing techniques can result in materials cost savings of up to \$500 or \$1,000 (for a 1,200- and 2,400-square-foot house, respectively), labor cost savings of 3-5 percent and annual heating and cooling cost savings of up to 5 percent.

Check with local building officials early in the design process to ensure that advanced framing techniques meet wind, seismic and other codes in your area. Also, choose a contractor familiar with this approach.

**Mark Your Calendars:
Lewis County REC Annual Meeting
will be held August 6th at
Highland Highschool, Ewing**



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Your thermostat plays a big role in how much you spend on electricity. Whether you are heating or cooling your home, try to set it as close to the outdoor temperature as possible. Consider a set-back thermostat that can change the temperature when you are sleeping or away from home.

SAFETY FIRST!

One of the simplest safety rules is also one of the most effective in preventing electric shock: Pull the plug! Always unplug appliances or tools before working on them. Pull the plug on outdoor cords too before rolling them up when the work is done.



TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

CALL (TOLL FREE) 1-888-454-4485
(LOCAL) 215-4000

24 HOURS A DAY

CALL THE TOLL FREE NUMBER
DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS (7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.)
FOR ALL OTHER SERVICES

Before calling:

Check your breakers or fuses

Check with your neighbors to see if they have power

When calling please give the following information:

Your name • Meter Number • and/or location number