

"Hotlines"

Published Monthly
for the Members of
Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Cherokee, OK
www.aec.coop



Count every friend as a Valentine!



February, 2013

Number 2 Volume 68

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Area News Briefs

Check out AEC's
new rebates
\$1000 per ton
for ground
source heat
pumps and 0%
interest loans.



Valentine's Day,
Thursday, Feb. 14th

President's Day
Monday, Feb. 18

**High school
Juniors!
Youth Tour
Essays due on
March 1, 2013.**

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(580) 596-3333 EARLY

On March 1, 2013 another Youth Tour Contest will come to a close.



South Barber High School juniors in Kiowa, Kansas, listen to information regarding the Youth Tour Essay Contest.

On March 1, 2013 another Youth Tour Contest will come to a close. High school juniors in fourteen schools are busy preparing essays for the competition. This year's theme is ***The Fifth Principle of Cooperatives--Education, Training and Information.***

Students in Oklahoma schools--Aline, Alva, Burlington, Cherokee, Freedom, Kremlin-Hunter, Lahoma, Pond Creek-Hunter, Ringwood, Timberlake and Waynoka, as well as

Attica, Kiowa, and Medicine Lodge, in Kansas work to complete their 500-word essays before the March 1 deadline.

Susie Koontz, recently retired as Cherokee's Main Street Director, boosts this year's program with enthusiasm and energy. Representing AEC throughout the service area, she distributes research packets regarding the subject and can answer questions

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ALTERNATING CURRENTS...

Alfalfa Electric Cooperative's Retail Rates Remain Competitive

by Colin Whitley

Based on the 2011 Department of Energy information, Alfalfa Electric Cooperative's average residential rates were among the lowest in Oklahoma and Kansas.

For the year, AEC total revenues for sales to our residen-

tial members averaged out at 8.68 cents per kWh.

For investor owned utilities in Oklahoma, the average revenues received for residential sales averaged 9.17 cents per kWh and municipally owned electric utilities averaged 9.47 cents per kWh.

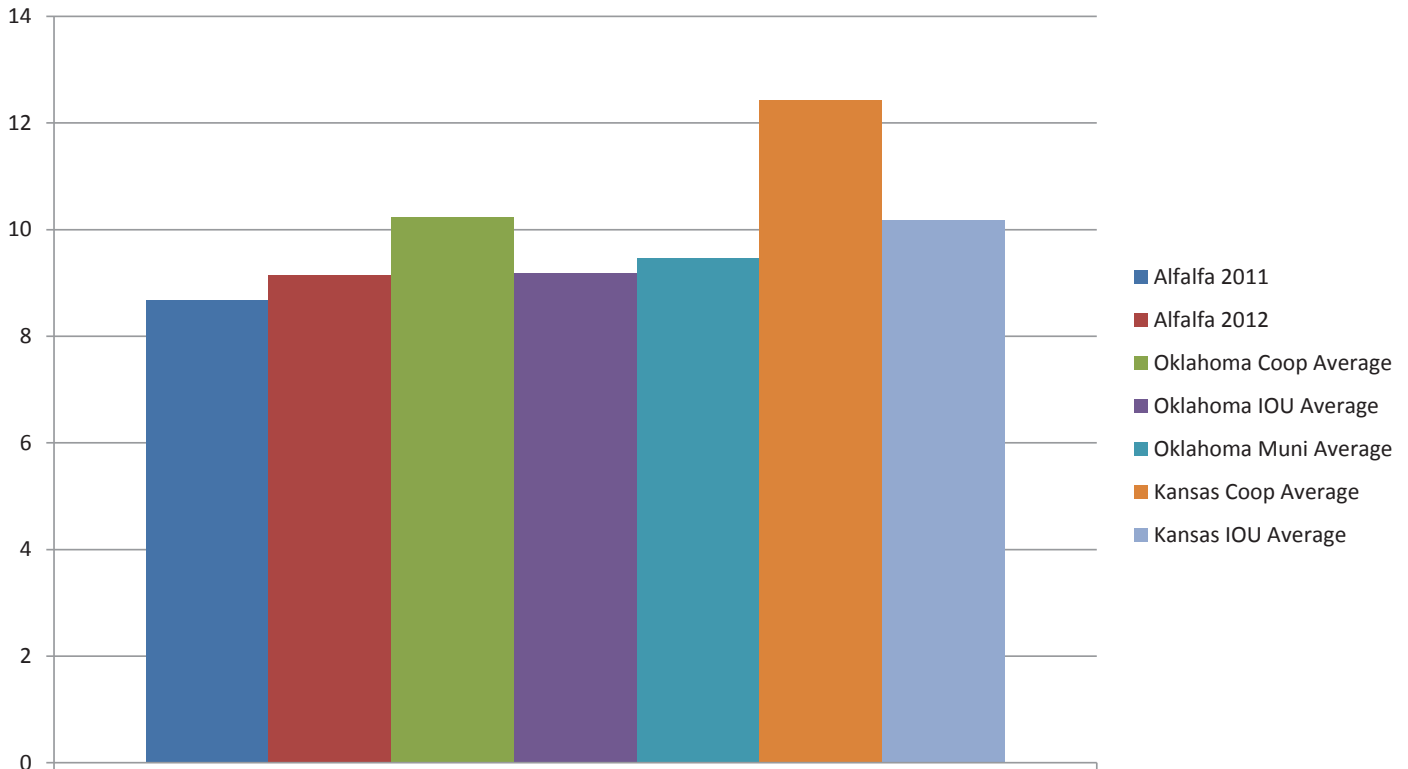
In 2012, AEC implemented a rate increase due to rising costs in transmission and purchased power. However, with this rate increase, AEC's average residential average was **9.14 cents per kWh** remaining very competitive compared with other electric power suppliers in the region. (The graph below illus-

trates AEC's rates in the competitive market.)

AEC's mission is to provide **competitively** priced utility and related services to our present and future membership. While transmission and purchased power costs are projected to continually increase, AEC is doing everything we can to meet this mission.

SEE AEC ON FACEBOOK

Average Residential Rate Comparison (2011 and 2012 YTD) (Cents/kWh)



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Youth Tour

regarding the generous prizes.

Mrs. Koontz contacts **six finalists** during the month of March, inviting them to an interview with contest judges. Afterwards the honorees will attend a banquet where they will read their winning essays. Final selection will be announced to guests, AEC's Board of Trustees, parents and finalists. Every finalist wins a great prize.

Two students win free trips to Washington, D.C. in June, when they join about 60 other youth representing electric cooperatives throughout the state.

Delegates spend nearly a week visiting historical sites and getting first-hand knowledge about their government.



Susie Koontz answers questions relating to the free trips and scholarships sponsored by AEC as Teacher Megan Masters observes.

An additional two students will travel west to Eden Valley, Colorado (near Steamboat Springs) for an Energy Camp in July. Other juniors from Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming join the participants as they all learn leadership skills, meet new friends and bask the gorgeous surroundings.

Finally two **\$400** scholarship winners are named and assured their prizes can be applied anywhere they choose to enroll after high school graduation.

AEC claims a proud fifty-year history with the Youth Tour Program and appreciates the fine support of educators throughout the seven counties the Cooperative serves.

Prizes have expanded over the years resulting in more students honored, but AEC continually rewards youth for a willingness to strive for higher goals.

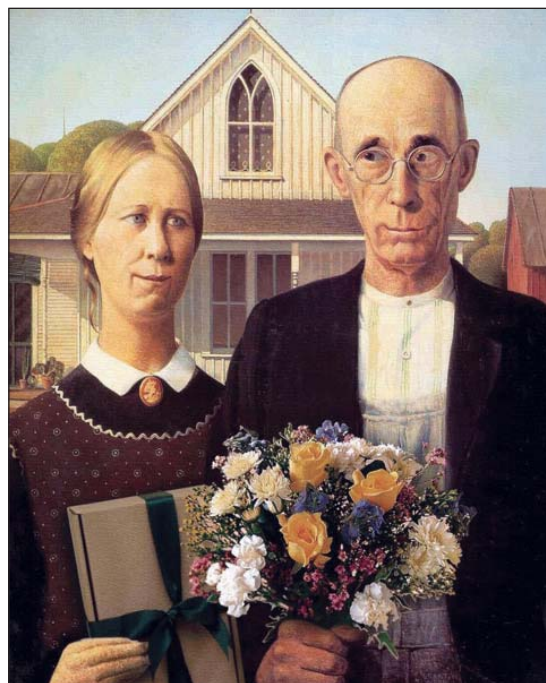
Is your furnace
smelling funny?
sounding funny?
or the flame
looking funny?

House fires are
not funny!

Call for a
furnace check-up!

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Valentine's Day softens hearts.



AEC reminds you to remember your sweetheart.

Choosing to be cozy in your home

Being a homemaker is a big responsibility. Perhaps you have noticed a chill in the room now that winter has finally arrived? Consider adding some insulation to make rooms cozy as well as getting more warmth from your heating bill.

Basically, a homeowner has three choices when selecting insulating material--Cellulose, fiberglass and foam.

Cellulose. Made from mostly shredded newspaper, it is chemically treated to make it more fire retardant. It

is lightweight and probably easiest to handle.

Fiberglass. The material is molten glass jetted through tiny holes with the aid of high-speed steam. The fibers produced are actually thin and long but collected into a blanket-type form.

Spray foam insulation. This material is a petroleum based product which must be applied professionally. It can be used throughout a structure and is often chosen where air leaks can be critical.

The cost using spray foam is typically more expensive than the other two methods. Any material left from the job site cannot be reused nor recycled. Closed-cell polyurethane foam or open-celled, low-density polyurethane (soy) are available but more expensive than cellulose or fiberglass.

Performance is a very key issue for most people who are seeking the best choice. "R" values (Insulating values per square inch) are about the same in cellulose and fiberglass but the thickness is different. The fiberglass will be thicker but the cellulose has the advantage because it will go around objects in your home much easier. Even though either type can be used, the cellulose may be a better choice because it can cover most surfaces easier.

Cellulose insulation uses fire-retardant chemicals that decrease the chance of insulation ignition up to 55 percent. It claims to give you a "2-hour firewall," which means the chemicals in the insulation have extended escape time before a fire spreads.

Fiberglass typically does not ignite easily but if it should finally catch on fire, it will spread easily and quickly engulfing your house. This type insulation comes with a fire warning to keep it away from fire-hazard materials or fire-starting chemicals.

Cellulose is also a better choice when it comes to resistance to moisture. Fiberglass can become wet and allow gaps in a wall.

Installation. Cellulose needs a special tool for blowing the insulation. It might have to be mixed with water and set for up to 72 hours before using but it will conform to any surface and roll over wires and other objects. It might take 6 months to a year to dry completely, depending on several factors like weather, temperature, time of year and general conditions during insulating.

Fiberglass must be installed carefully, wearing safety equipment. It does not need special tools but must be cut to fit around objects in the house.

Director of Marketing and Technical Services Terry Ryel concludes, "**Personally, I think the cellulose insulation is a better option because it is a cheaper one.** It has a tighter seal and fit which helps cut down on energy costs as well as helping prevent moisture.

Ryel continues, "Cellulose seems to be better fire resistant. If you do not mind the added drying time for the cellulose, I feel it is the best choice between the two.

"The open-celled, low-density polyurethane foam (soy) spray is also quite effective but is much more expensive because it requires professional installation."



Materials and application differ greatly when adding insulation. Call Terry Ryel at 580-596-3333 ex. 111 for your best solution.



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