

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative

WATTS *Current*

For Our Customers • April 2004

REVISED ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROGRAM

In January we announced a new Alternative Energy Program where members could make voluntary contributions to a new alternative energy fund. Monies in the fund were to be used for development of alternate energy production facilities in Iowa. To date the fund has accumulated \$14.00, a long way from being of value to any alternative energy project.

Therefore the Board of Directors has agreed to terminate the existing program and offer instead an Alternative Energy Purchase Program. Under this new program, members will actually be able to purchase alternative energy for an additional monthly fee of \$1.00 per 50 kWh block. Members may purchase as many 50 kWh blocks as they wish by simply making the request to the billing department. This purchase will result in an incremental charge to the standard rate schedule and is open to all members.

This new purchase program does not guarantee renewable energy will be delivered directly to your premise. Instead it assures the amount of renewable energy you purchase will be purchased by the Cooperative first from approved generators on the Cooperative's electrical system and then from the Cooperative's power supplier, CIPCO, for delivery into the electrical system.

The new Alternative Energy Purchase Program is effective April 1, 2004 and members will be able to subscribe immediately for billings rendered after May 1, 2004.

Members who joined the original Alternate Energy Program by contributing \$1.00 per month will be transferred to this new program and automatically enrolled for 50 kWh of renewable energy per month. Monies donated to date will be credited to their electric bill.

Interest in alternative energy projects continues to be a hot topic all across the State and your Cooperative is happy to be a player in its development.

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Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative

Our Energy Working For

BOARD AUTHORIZES 2003 DIVIDEND ALLOCATION

As a not-for-profit Cooperative, Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative does not sell stock and is not under pressure to earn profits for absentee stockholders. We, do, however, allocate excess margins, in the form of patronage dividends, to our member-owners.

The Board of Directors of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative recently approved allocating 2003 margins of \$431,305 to members and former members.

The energy bill you receive approximately April 8th is scheduled to include a notice informing you of your 2003 patronage dividend allocation. This is only a notice and cannot be treated as cash or deducted from the bill. Payment of this dividend will be made at a future time as determined by the Board of Directors.

Your Cooperative operates to provide you a service, not to make a profit. Revenue collected that is not needed to cover the cost of providing service is set aside and divided among the members in proportion to their patronage (how much electricity they used during the year). This is just one more advantage to being a Cooperative member.

If you should discontinue membership with the Cooperative, it is important you keep us informed of your current address so when it comes time to issue you a patronage dividend check we can send it to the right place. If you have questions about your patronage dividends, please call Cleo at 319-462-3541 or 800-927-6068 or email crogers@mvec.com.



SQUIRREL CAUSES PROBLEMS FOR SOME DUBUQUE MEMBERS

Over 700 businesses and residences along Dubuque's west side experienced an extended power outage of one hour and 40 minutes (8:44 to 10:24 a.m.) on Wednesday, March 3, 2004 when a squirrel managed to crawl to the top of a 6 foot, 2500 pound voltage regulator at our Julien Substation. By simply touching the 7200 volt wire connector, he managed to cause considerable damage to equipment in the substation. Members were switched over to another substation as a new regulator was delivered and set in place.



We apologize for the inconvenience this caused, and will continue our efforts to reduce outages. We thank you for your patience.

BY-LAWS AVAILABLE

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, copies of the Bylaws of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative are available at the reception counter of the headquarters office at Anamosa, Iowa. If you want a copy of the Cooperative's Bylaws, please ask at the Cooperative office or contact us and one will be mailed.





Energy Working For You!

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



ATTENTION HEAT PLUS CUSTOMERS

The meter reading submitted with your April bill payment (reflecting April energy use) will be the last Heat Plus billing of this season. Effective with the meter reading you send in May you will be billed on the regular rate. The Heat Plus rate resumes again with your September energy use.

Next month's Watts Current will address a major computer software conversion we are undertaking. This conversion will bring some changes to your Heat Plus statements starting in May. You will now receive two statements (mailed in one envelope), one for your main electric meter and one for your Heat Plus meter. You will always receive two statements, even those months when the balance due on the Heat Plus account will be zero. You will still need to record your meter readings on each statement and send (mail, telephone or email) them to us monthly. You will also have a completely different account number. It will be important for you to compare the meter serial number on the statement with your meter to be sure you are recording the reading on the correct return portion of the statement.

A new benefit for you is that each statement will now have a bar chart that will reflect your kWh usage over the previous 13 months for each meter. This feature is a nice "at-a-glance" way for you to monitor your electrical usage.

We appreciate your cooperation as we work through this conversion process.

CALENDAR ERROR

MVEC's 2-year magnetic calendars many members faithfully refer to incorrectly indicates Father's Day is June 13th. Father's Day 2004 is actually June 20th. We apologize for confusion this may have created.

RE Care

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative

109 North Huber Street
Anamosa, Iowa 52205

OBJECTIVE: "RECare" is a voluntary energy assistance program established to help low income families weatherize and heat their homes. Funds collected are distributed by a local community action agency. The money does stay in the area; it is a program of members helping members!

One Time Pledge \$ _____

Payable to: Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative

Monthly Pledge:

\$1.00 _____ \$2.00 _____

\$3.00 _____ \$5.00 _____

Other \$ _____

I hereby authorize the Cooperative to add this amount to my monthly electric bill. I understand I can cancel my monthly pledge at any time by notifying the Cooperative in writing.

Account Number _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Return this form with your energy payment and meter reading.





NANCY MILLER - DESIGNING WOMAN

Grace Zimmerman, Anamesa

Question: How does a family become involved in a unique venture such as "Custom Home Embroidery"?

To listen to Nancy Miller tell the story, one realizes it was a long, careful, thoughtful studying process. "It all started about five years ago when I joined my husband, Tom, who is with the USDA, in attending the 'Elk Auction' at the fairgrounds in Des Moines. They do actually sell elk at the auction. We visited an outside flea market set up there. This lady was selling custom embroidered items, which caught our eye. She was forthright at the outset, informing us that such a business would involve a \$30,000 to \$40,000 investment. We played with the idea for a couple of years. I read the "Stitches" magazine, which explained the business. We went to an "Imprinted Sportswear Show" (ISS) in Chicago. We visited with suppliers of machines, garments, thread, backing, hoopers and software", explains Nancy.

Which naturally led to my question, "Hoopers"? Nancy replied, "There are all kinds of hoopers, some where you hang garments on it to hoop them and some lay flat. Some embroiderers don't use hoopers and do it all by hand. My hanging hooper saves time. In fact, there is the hooper machine which I use.

We picked up literature at the ISS show, which we took home to study. It was a joint decision by both of us. We met with representatives from Melco in Minneapolis to have software and an embroidery machine, which worked together. We purchased the Melco Embroidery Commercial Machine in August and it was delivered in September, 2001. We set it up in the basement of our home. (You can buy a home embroidery machine but it limits the use of what you can make.) We've done a lot of work in the basement room since, adding shelves, etc.", Nancy adds.

It's obvious by listening to Nancy's explanation of supplies that her chief goal is working to achieve customer satisfaction. Her suppliers include one company which offers polos, denims, button-downs, etc. from women's sizes

small to 4X, available in 19 colors. Men's sizes are from X-small to 8XL and tall in a variety of 27 colors. Children's sizes are also offered. More flattering styles, not the usual run of the mill, are now available for women.

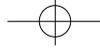
There are many different stock design companies. Nancy chose one, which offered the most realistic designs, which include items such as mascots, floral, Christmas, holidays, religious, children's, etc. There are designs for every business.

In explaining how it all works, Nancy informs me that the designs come on CD's which I load directly into the computer, creating folders. When I pull up the design in the computer, I add lettering to suit, script, etc. Then I send it to the Melco machine, which is set up with the color of thread, with the design set in the hoop.

I stitch up the design once, making corrections before stitching it on the actual garment. Incidentally, because of copyright, Walt Disney, John Deere, etc. are not available. But, I can make hats, shirts and other garments with government



Above: Hooper machine.



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Above: Nancy with supplies

logos because they are not copyrighted or licensed.

My reaction was that custom embroidery was very complicated. (But, you have to realize I have a piece of hand embroidery which I started at age eight, still half-finished in a dresser drawer.) What really appealed to me was the advantage of items being personalized. For example, a sports bag with the name being embroidered on it helps in easy identification. Also, there are afghans, towels, you name it, with your name to personalize the items. How about a towel as a 50th anniversary gift with gold stitching providing names and date - useful and unique? Just use your imagination. "I have a retail tax permit and have all the things retail suppliers have, whether it's coats, business shirts, school athletic supplies, bags or caps. With 90% of my customers, I meet at their site, business or home. Some

come to my home to see the product. I do attend some craft shows. Visitors, women's clubs, etc. are welcome to come to our home to see demonstrations or make selections. Most of my sales are dependent on word of mouth.

Our original plan called for the custom embroidery being part-time until our three boys, Jebidiah, 8, Lance, 7, and Isaiah, 5, were all in school", adds Nancy.

To make the excursion to Country Home Embroidery, when driving on Highway 64, turn north in Baldwin on 50th Avenue (Y-34) for about 4 miles on a paved road until you see the Country Home Embroidery Sign as well as a green and white Tree Farm Logo at 10575. As I drove up the lane, huge

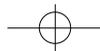
logs were piled along the drive. When Tom and Nancy purchased the 120 acres, with 90 acres being in timber and pasture, they originally wanted a cattle farm. But they have since become involved in a riparian program which involved planting trees for water quality. They first planted 5000 trees with a 4-H group assisting and will plant 500 trees this year. They received a 2003 Woodland Owner of the Year Award from the Jackson County Soil and Water Commission. They are presently harvesting trees as they mature. This is also a family venture as is the custom embroidery as Nancy is quick to add that Tom is especially helpful in maintaining the embroidery machines. They also built their lovely home, nestled by the timber, seven years ago with the assistance of family and friends.

It would be difficult to find a more dedicated family working for conservation as well as providing a service for their customers to promote businesses and personal goals and that unparalleled gift for special occasions.

They can be contacted by phone or fax at 563-652-6954 or email che@willinet.net, or by mail at 10575 50th Avenue, Baldwin, Iowa 52207. You'll be glad you did!



Above: Signs as you enter the driveway.





WATTS HEALTHY

Susan Uthoff, ISU Extension Nutrition & Health Specialist

Spring's Vegetable Treats

Nutrition experts from around the world agree fruits and vegetables are just what the doctor, and the chef, ordered. Produce is packed with nutrients to enhance your health and fabulous flavors to please your taste buds. When it comes to choosing fruits and vegetables, let the rainbow be your guide. Eating many different colors is one of the best ways to get all the phytonutrients we need to stay healthy and to fight disease, including heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, macular (eye) degeneration, prostate problems, osteoporosis and many types of cancer.

Studies by the Produce for Better Health Foundation show that Americans are eating only about 3 servings of produce per day. This is far short of the recommended minimum of five servings of fruits and vegetables per day. Even worse, half of our intake (52 percent) comes from just three items lettuce, canned tomato products and potatoes (as fries and chips). Fortunately, all types of produce provide great taste and promote good health, fresh, frozen, canned and dried they all count.

The following recipe is a good start to increasing vegetable consumption.

Spring Vegetable Rice Salad

Makes 8 cup servings

- 4 cups cooked instant rice
- 1 cup halved cherry tomatoes or 1 tomato chopped
- 1 cup cut-up asparagus spears (1 inch) washed, cooked and cooled
- 1 cup light mayonnaise
- 1 tbsp. each prepared mustard and chopped fresh parsley
- Grated lemon peel (optional)
- Juice from 1 lemon or 3 Tbsp. bottled lemon juice

Toss rice with tomatoes and asparagus in large bowl. Mix remaining ingredients until well blended. Add to rice mixture; toss to coat. Serve immediately or cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

PDF AD TO BE PLACED HERE



MVEC 2004 REBATE PROGRAM

EQUIPMENT/INSTALLATION	REBATE	SPECIFICATIONS/REGULATIONS
Residential Geothermal Heat Pump (New) Geothermal Replacement Units Only	Closed Loop \$400/Ton Open Loop \$250/Ton \$150/Ton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum \$6000; Must be ARI Listed; Sized to allow compressor to supply at least 85% of heating requirements at design heat loss conditions without exceeding 200% of cooling load. Pre-approval required.
Air Source Heat Pump	\$150/Ton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Star rated; ARI Listed; Subject to control agreement; Minimum 13 SEER cooling and 8.0 HSPF heating.
Compressor Change-Out Geothermal/Air-Source (Replacement)	\$100/Ton	
Heat Plus Program	Metering Equipment - Special heat Rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electric Resistance or Geothermal; No domestic water heating; Contact office for details & approval.
Indoor Air Quality (Portable units do not qualify)	\$75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Filtration/Radon/Heat Recovery/Ultra-Violet Air Purifiers
Central Air Conditioner	\$200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum efficiency rating of 13 SEER; Subject to control agreement; Limit 2 per household
Electric Water Heaters: Electric Water Heater (Premium Quality; 50 Gallon) Electric Water Heater (Premium Quality; 80 Gallon) Electric Heat Pump Water Heater (50 Gallon)	\$250 \$300 \$250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy factor of .90 or above; Subject to control agreement All Electric water heater must be energized Must be Energy Star rated
Energy Star Appliances: Limit to one of each appliance/household. Refrigerator Dishwasher (Electric water heater required) Washing Machine (Electric water heater required) Room Air Conditioner	\$50 \$25 \$75 \$25	
Energy Efficient Lighting (Compact Fluorescent)	\$2/Compact Fluorescent \$2/Bulb for 4 ft. T-8 Fixture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Star rated; 1 rebate per household/year Pre-approval over \$2,000 or 500 units
Outdoor Lighting (Dusk to Dawn)	Variable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact office for complete details
Dairy -Milk Pre-Cooler	\$3/Cow	
Energy Efficient Premium Motors	Variable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 200 hp; contact office for complete details; Pre-approval over \$1,000 or 20 units.
Variable Speed Drive (VSD)	\$40/Horsepower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact office for complete details

Request rebate application form from office and return with copy of sales receipt. (Forms may also be downloaded from www.mvec.coop)

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative reserves the right to discontinue the Rebate Program at any time. No rebates will be paid for a temporary or seasonal application.

NOTICE



Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative office will be closed April 9, 2004 in observance of Good Friday.

Visit our Web Site

at www.mvec.coop or
Email direct to the following departments:

- Billing questions: billing@mvec.com
- Product or service questions: memberservice@mvec.com
- Maintenance issues: maintenance@mvec.com



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109 North Huber St.
Anamosa, Iowa 52205-0370

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OFFICE HOURS
Monday thru Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Web Site: www.mvec.coop
e-mail: mvec@mvec.com

After Hours Call Center

800-582-8998

After hours you may also call the service person
in your area to report outages or trouble on the
line.

Anamosa, Dallas Paustian.....	319-462-4848
Cascade, Pete Boffeli	563-852-3180
Dubuque, Rick Olsem.....	563-582-3668
Farley, Jim Lehman.....	563-744-3005
LaMotte, Vernon Konrardy.....	563-773-2309
Manchester, Dan Petersen.....	563-927-6491
Maquoketa, Jerry Streeper.....	563-652-5014

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