

A publication for members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Roy Williams and Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp applications now available.

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ALONG THE LINE

HERE'S SOMETHING THAT WILL REALLY WAKE YOU UP.



POUND OF COFFEE
1936.....14.5¢
2013.....\$7.43

INCREASE.....51x

ELECTRICITY
1936.....5¢
2013.....13¢

INCREASE.....2.6x
BASED ON AVERAGE COST PER KILOWATT HOUR

We know how you like your electricity...affordable. And for the past 75 years, we've helped to keep it that way. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at TogetherWeSave.

Sales and Use Tax Notice

Consumers of electricity (farmers, manufacturers and data centers) that wish to receive a reduced tax on electricity, must complete a Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement Certificate of Exemption, Form E-595E, and supply it to the utility in connection with the electricity which qualifies for the reduced tax.

In order to qualify for the reduced tax rate, the electricity must be measured by a separate meter. Electricity sales in connection with any of these type accounts will not be deemed eligible for a reduced sales tax rate until a Form E-595E is received for a specific and separately metered account.



Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Opportunities Offered to Students



Calling all basketball fans! North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives are once again offering middle-school students the chance to win a full scholarship to summer basketball camp. Young men can apply to attend the June 21-25 Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Young ladies can apply to attend the June 23-26 Wolfpack Women's

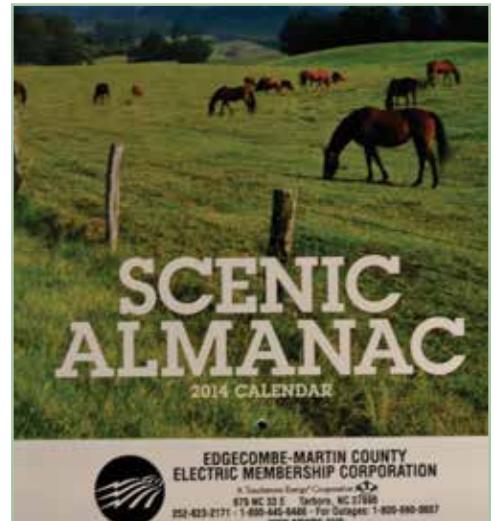
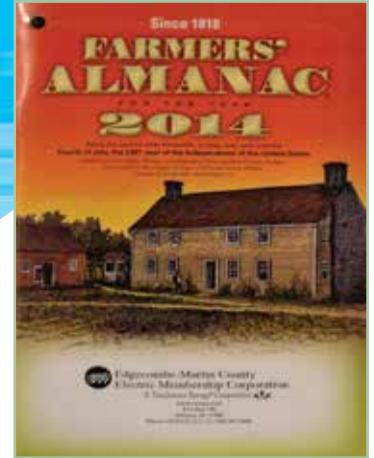
Basketball Camp at N.C. State University in Raleigh.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will award scholarships to one boy and one girl this year. At the overnight camps, coaches and college athletes will work directly with campers to develop fundamental skills that will help the young athletes excel both on and off the court.

Students who will be in sixth, seventh or eighth grade during the 2014-2015 school

year can apply starting January 2. To download the Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarship application or find more information, visit www.ncemcs.com/community/sportsCamps.htm

More than 50 students across the state will attend basketball camps this summer through the Touchstone Energy Sports Camp program, a reflection of the electric cooperatives' commitment to community.



HOLIDAY CLOSING

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2014, for New Year's Day.

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be made at the kiosk under the drive thru canopy, placed in the night deposit box or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to www.ememc.com.

To report a loss of power or an emergency after hours, please call 1-800-690-0657.

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Get Your Complimentary Almanac or Calendar

Members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC can request a complimentary 2014 Scenic Almanac calendar or a 2014 Farmer's Almanac on their next visit to our office. We will distribute the calendars and almanacs to walk-in members until they are gone, so stop by and get yours today.

Both the calendar and almanac provide an abundance of useful information to help you make plans throughout the year!

LINES FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Where Will Your Power Come From in the Future?

The power generation industry continues to change more than you can imagine. Traditional power resources in the past consisted of nuclear and coal-fired generation, and although they still make up the largest part of our generation resources, we are seeing other resources utilized more heavily as we move forward.

Many coal-fired power plants are being replaced by major industry players in order to switch to a now cheaper and less controversial fuel source such as natural gas. Although the trend became noticeable in the late 90s, it hasn't been until the past few years that change became so drastic. Some utilities are closing their older coal-fired power plants and are starting fresh, while others are converting their coal-fired plants to run on natural gas. Although many power providers are making the switch now to hedge against the possible future risks of more stringent carbon emission legislation, it is not the only reason. Many power companies are capitalizing on current natural gas prices to bring more of these plants online, with expectations that natural gas prices will remain somewhat stable in the future. The U.S. Energy Information Administration reports that coal-fired facilities are expected to drop to 10% of total new capacity in the U.S. in 2103, down from 18% in 2009. However, gas-fired plants are expected to jump to 82% of new capacity in 2013, up from 42% last year.

A big variable in the transition to natural gas-fired power plants is ensuring the resource supply can meet the increasing demand. Hydraulic fracturing is a method used to extract natural gas from underground shale, and this method is facing staunch opposition by many environmental groups across the world. Decisions by states to allow hydraulic fracturing will play a big part in the future of natural gas-fired power plants.

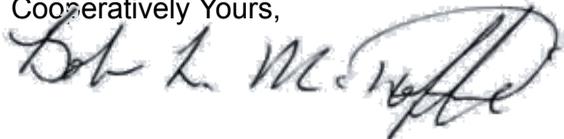
Nuclear power will also continue to play a primary role in power generation for years to come. It still provides the most reliable and cost-effective energy to electric consumers across the country. However, the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster caused by a tsunami in Tokyo during March 2011 has brought overwhelming scrutiny to the nuclear power industry over the past three years. Increased safety standards and measures have been introduced that will increase the operating and construction costs required for the plants into the

future. This, combined with the ongoing issue of nuclear waste storage, will hamper the growth of nuclear power generation in the years ahead. Although Yucca Mountain, which is located in Nevada, was approved by Congress in 2002 as a nuclear waste storage site, it has faced many obstacles that have prevented it from being used. Funding for the project was terminated by Congress in April 2011, and the future of the site remains very uncertain as of now.

Another area our country and state has witnessed a large amount of interest and growth in is renewable energy. In 2007, the North Carolina General Assembly passed renewable energy legislation that impacted power providers across our state. Since that time, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has interconnected two large-scale solar farms to our distribution system and one landfill gas to energy project. Federal and state tax incentives, coupled with REPS mandates continue to attract renewable energy developers to our area. Solar power has really become one of the most popular renewables in the eastern part of our state. Installed solar prices have dropped substantially over the past few years, with prices going from nearly \$5 per watt to almost \$1 per watt. This is mainly due to a surplus of solar panels and a drop in the price of polysilicon that is used in manufacturing the panels. Although solar power cannot be relied upon as a constant power resource, it is possible we will continue to see abundant growth in this area as long as tax subsidies remain in place to attract investors to this technology.

As you can see, the future of the power industry is very volatile and uncertain. However, we must plan accordingly in order to hedge our risks and to help keep electric rates low as possible for our member-owners.

Cooperatively Yours,



Bob L. McDuffie



Home Appliance Safety

Appliances make our everyday lives a bit simpler, but that doesn't mean they are without hazards. Be sure to keep these safety tips in mind when using appliances.

General

- Always follow an appliance's instructions to be sure that you are using it correctly and safely.
- Check to see if your appliances have been approved by an independent testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Check your appliances occasionally for damages, looking for breaks in the power cords, plugs, or connectors.

Water

- Be sure that outlets in bathrooms, kitchens or other places near water are GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) specific. GFCI outlets constantly monitor electrical current within the circuit, and if the current is altered in anyway, the GFCI quickly interrupts the flow to prevent electrical shock.
- If an appliance is plugged in and falls in water, be sure the circuit is shut off before grabbing the appliance.
- It is important that your hands are dry before touching appliances to avoid electrical shock.
- Never have electrical appliances such as radios, TVs, or hairdryers near a sink or bath tub.

Outlets

- It may feel like there are never enough outlets, but refrain from using outlet "splitters" or running too many extension cords. It can damage your home's electrical system or cause a fire.
- If your appliance is damaged, you should either take it to a certified repair center or just throw it away and buy a new one. Never continue using it for safety reasons.
- Unplug small appliances such as curling irons, hair dryers, toasters, irons, etc. when not in use to conserve energy and reduce fire hazards. Make a routine of checking all electrical appliances before going to bed to make sure they are unplugged.

Cords

- Keep cords neat and tucked away to avoid tripping or having pets chew on them.
- Don't run cords under rugs and carpets. This is not only a fire hazard, but it also prevents you from being able to see what condition the cords are in.
- Never run cords over heated appliances such as toasters or stoves. This is a serious fire hazard.

Being mindful of these safety tips will ensure that you can continue enjoying the conveniences that appliances have to offer.

ALONG THE LINE

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