



May 2013

RURAL  
MISSOURI

# Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

# News

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## SAC OSAGE ELECTRIC REMINDS MEMBERS TO DIG SAFELY

Missouri One Call System wants to remind Missouri residents to always call 1-800-DIG-RITE or 811 or click on [www.mo1call.com](http://www.mo1call.com) before any digging project.

By calling 1-800-DIG-RITE or 811 or clicking on [www.mo1call.com](http://www.mo1call.com), homeowners and contractors are connected to Missouri One Call System's call center, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. Professional locators are then sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, paint or both. A utility line is damaged by digging once every three minutes nationwide, and one-third of these incidents are caused by failure of the homeowner or professional excavator to notify Missouri One Call before beginning their digging project.

Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages.

No matter how large or small, every digging project warrants a call to 1-800-DIG-RITE or 811 or a click to [www.mo1call.com](http://www.mo1call.com). Installing a mailbox, building a deck and planting a tree or garden are all examples of digging projects that should only begin a few days after a call or click into Missouri One Call's call center.

"April marks the traditional start of digging season. During this time we are strongly reminding individuals and companies of the importance to always call 1-800-DIG-RITE or 811 or click [www.mo1call.com](http://www.mo1call.com) three working days before they begin digging," said Rodger Culbertson, Line Superintendent. "By calling

or clicking to have the underground utility lines in their area marked, homeowners and professionals are making an important decision that can help keep them and their community safe and connected."

Remember, the depth of utility lines can vary for a number of reasons, such as erosion, previous digging projects and uneven surfaces. Utility lines need to be properly marked because even when digging only a few inches, the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists.

For more information on Missouri One Call, visit their website at [www.mo1call.com](http://www.mo1call.com).

# can you dig it?

**Before you dig, get the dirt.**

Underground utilities exist everywhere, even in your yard.

Whether you're a homeowner or excavator, digging without knowing where it's safe to dig can cause tremendous damage and even loss of lives.

**Get the scoop.  
Call Or Click  
Before You Dig.**

**1-800-DIG-RITE  
or 811  
[mo1call.com](http://mo1call.com)**



**OUR OFFICE WILL  
BE CLOSED ON  
MAY 27TH IN  
OBSERVANCE OF  
MEMORIAL DAY.**

## Be kind to animals week

The American Humane Association has designated the first full week in May (May 5 to 12 this year) as a time to appreciate pets and other animals. Dogs and cats were once worshipped as gods in some societies. In the 11th century, a dog called Saur was



named king of Norway by his master, the actual ruler, who was angry with his subjects for having once deposed him. English writer Samuel Johnson fed his favorite cat, Hodge, fresh oysters every day, while U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt invited the extra-toed cat, Slippers, to diplomatic dinners.

## Tornadoes

Most tornadoes in the United States occur in May, often striking suddenly and without warning, and few natural phenomena are harder to predict. Folk wisdom advises that a "pale green sky means the wind is high." In other words, the sky turns green just before a tornado forms. Although



no one knows for certain why this happens, one theory suggests that because storms usually develop in the afternoon, the longer wavelengths (red and yellow) of afternoon sunlight (already deficient in blue) turn the bluish, water-heavy clouds green.

## Spring cleaning

Spring cleaning took on another permutation in 1901 when British engineer Hubert Booth invented the first practical electric vacuum cleaner. Unlike the vacuums we know today, his version was sent out with a cleaning crew in vehicles. They went door to door, offering the



services of his machine to vacuum the dust and dirt out of the house using long tubes. In 1907, the Hoover Suction Sweeper Co. improved on the design, and then again, in 1921, a Swedish electric lamp salesman produced further developments and started the Electrolux Company.

For recipes, gardening tips and weather forecasts, visit:  
[www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com)



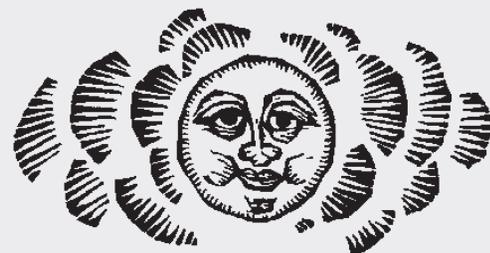
### Recipe for Dog Biscuits



3-1/2 cups whole-wheat flour  
3 cups rolled oats  
1/2 cup powdered milk  
1/2 cup bacon grease  
2 teaspoons cod liver oil  
2 eggs  
1-1/2 cups instant beef gravy

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Combine all ingredients to make a sticky dough. Drop by tablespoons onto ungreased cookie sheets and bake for 50 minutes. Cool on rack and then store in plastic bags. Makes about 30 dog biscuits.

## THE OLD FARMER'S



## WEATHER PROVERBS

**If owls hoot at night,  
expect fair weather.**

**A cold May is kindly,  
and fills the barn  
finely.**

**With dew before mid-  
night, the next day  
will sure be bright.**

**A red sun has water  
in his eye.**

**When the thrush  
sings at sunset, a fair  
day will follow.**

**Clover contracts  
its leaves at the  
approach of a storm.**

**Wind roaring into the  
chimney, there is rain  
to come.**

**A late spring is a  
great blessing.**

**The weather usually  
clears at noon when  
a southerly wind is  
blowing.**



## H O M E C O M F O R T

# Window shopping for windows

*Consider your home and your family's lifestyle when selecting replacement windows*

**Dear Jim: We need replacement windows for our home. How do I choose among the various frame materials, styles and glass types? — Sandi F.**



by Jim Dulley

**D**ear Sandi: It's important to note that because windows are an expensive project, energy efficiency should not be your only reason to purchase new ones. Other efforts will save more money, and you can find ways to make your existing windows more energy efficient (visit [www.EnergySavers.gov](http://www.EnergySavers.gov) for a wealth of information). However, if you truly need new windows, there are some considerations.

The proper selection not only depends on the characteristic of the window but also on your specific house and family lifestyle. What is best for your neighbor's house may not necessarily be best for yours. For example, you may want a view of a particular area outdoors or want springtime ventilation, whereas your neighbor may keep the blinds closed and air-condition continuously.

You have mentioned the three main decision criteria for selecting replacement windows: frame material, style of window and glass type. From the standpoint of energy efficiency, the glass type and style of window are more important than the frame material, which has a greater affect on the functionality, durability, maintenance and appearance.

The four most common frame materials for residential windows are vinyl, fiberglass, wood and clad wood. Each has its own advantages. Vinyl is energy efficient and virtually maintenance free. They also are made to the precise dimensions of the window opening instead of having to shim out standard sizes.

In order to attain adequate rigidity, the vinyl frame extrusions have many webs and chambers inside. These chambers create natural insulation, plus the vinyl material itself is a poor conductor of heat. For greater R-value, several vinyl window manufacturers inject expanding foam insulation inside the chambers as the frame is assembled.

Always look for sash frames that have welded corners for strength. Because the outer window frame is screwed rigidly into the window opening framing, welded corners in it are not as important as with the sash frames. If you select vinyl frames for large windows, especially in hot climates, they should have steel reinforcement internally. When vinyl gets hot in the sun, it loses strength and rigidity.

Fiberglass frames are extremely strong and can be painted any color to match interior or exterior house colors. Because its primary component is glass, fiberglass frames expand and contract with temperature changes about the same rate as the glass panes to minimize stress.

This characteristic is an advantage for dark frame colors exposed to the sun, which can cre-



photo courtesy of Quaker Windows, Freeburg, Mo., [www.quakerwindows.com](http://www.quakerwindows.com)

Energy efficiency should not be your only reason to replace windows. The proper selection not only depends on the characteristic of the window but also on your specific house and family lifestyle.

ate a substantial temperature range throughout the day and night. The strength of fiberglass frames also is an advantage for smaller windows because narrower frame cross-sections are acceptable. With other frame materials, a thicker frame can reduce the glass area too much.

Wood window frames have been around forever, and when properly maintained, they have a very long life. Wood frames also are the most attractive. This is true even if you choose to paint the frames. It's easier to cut more complex and sharper detail into wood frame surfaces. The drawback of wood is some regular maintenance is required for appearance and energy efficiency.

Exterior vinyl- or aluminum-clad wood frames greatly reduce the maintenance require-

ments. The natural wood can still be exposed on the indoor surface so they look like wood windows from indoors. Some vinyl and fiberglass frames also are available with natural wood indoor cladding to provide the appearance of real wood frames.

The proper style of window depends primarily on the appearance and features you desire — much more than the energy-efficiency characteristics.

For example, people often select double-hung windows because they can be tilted in for easy cleaning from indoors. Windows that close on a compression seal, such as casement and awning windows, tend to provide the best long-term airtight seal. Also, casement windows can catch breezes and direct them into the house for natural ventilation.

Because glass is most of the window, the type you choose is the key to its energy efficiency. Double-pane-glass with low-E (low-emissivity) coatings and inert gas in the gap between the panes is adequate for most climates. Triple-pane glass may make sense for severely cold climates.

The location of the low-E coating on the various pane surfaces, often more than one, affects whether the glass is better for winter or summer savings. You may end up selecting different glass options for different windows in your house.

*Have an energy-efficiency question for Jim? E-mail him at [contact@dulley.com](mailto:contact@dulley.com) or write to: James Dulley, Rural Missouri, 6906 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244. Visit [www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com) to read past articles on energy efficiency.*

### **Visit these online resources to learn more about windows:**

- For tips on style, including energy considerations: [www.thehousedesigners.com/articles/selecting-the-right-window.asp](http://www.thehousedesigners.com/articles/selecting-the-right-window.asp)
- For shopping tips: [www.energy.gov/energysaver/articles/tips-windows](http://www.energy.gov/energysaver/articles/tips-windows)
- For code requirements for new home construction and details on U-factor and SHGC: [www.energy.gov/energysaver/articles/energy-efficient-windows](http://www.energy.gov/energysaver/articles/energy-efficient-windows)
- For window ratings from the National Fenestration Rating Council: [www.nfrc.org/WindowRatings/index.html](http://www.nfrc.org/WindowRatings/index.html)



## Manager's Column —

### ***WE DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!***

Recently, the rural electric cooperatives collectively said “goodbye” to our long time CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association at the cooperative’s Annual Meeting last February. Many accolades were given Glenn English, as he wrapped up his 19 year career as the head of the national electric cooperative organization. Before being selected to head the NRECA, Mr. English served as a Congressman from Oklahoma for 19 years. As Mr. English emphasized in his concluding speech, before he became the proverbial “last member at the end of the line” after retirement, he encouraged all the cooperatives leadership to make sure that we make a difference for our member-consumers. He reminded us that this rural electric program began as a crusade. It started as a campaign to allow rural folks the same rights and opportunities that electricity provided to the lives of those residing in the cities. Neighbors had to band together and come up with a five dollar membership, and often waited months or years until World War II came to a close so wire line conductor and equipment became available to purchase to build electric lines in the sparsely settled countryside.

On July 25, 1940, Sac Osage Electric Cooperative began to make a difference to rural Cedar County, and then to the surrounding counties, building electric lines to those who signed up as members of the Cooperative. As Mr. English so accurately pointed out to the attendees at the NRECA annual meeting, the cooperative was not just another utility. Neighbors worked together attending annual meetings to elect local men and women to Sac Osage Electric’s Board of Directors. A legal organization had to be formed. Accounting and engineering standards were adopted as prescribed by the Rural Electrification Administration, now known as Rural Utilities Services. The lynchpin between the federal government in Washington D.C. and the rural electric cooperatives was the locally elected Board of Directors. Dozens of decisions had to be made that would fit the local culture, the local environment. By administering this financ-

ing resource to build electric lines and services, the Board of Directors caused millions of dollars to be invested in our area. Still today, Sac Osage Electric Cooperative utilizes RUS, borrowing nine million dollars to complete a four year construction work plan. Despite having to borrow federal funds for capital investment, Sac Osage Electric continues to build equity, while returning capital credits in December to its members.

So, on June 11, 2013, make a difference. We are coming upon both a historic and legal event as members of this cooperative will have the opportunity to attend the 73rd Annual Meeting of the membership. This is the time when you will be able to vote for those candidates that are standing for election on the Board of Directors.

This cooperative has always believed that our employees are our greatest asset. They always make a difference by serving our members on a daily basis, 24/7. They are the ones that get things done.

But think again! The Board of Directors, are often overlooked for their contribution to the long-range planning that the Cooperative must achieve if it is to be viable in serving the long term power requirements of the membership. They also must continue to work to keep the rural electric loan funding program in place as a future resource for borrowing for capital investments. The crusade continues as the Board of Directors assures compliance, grapples with hard decisions, and continually fights the ever increasing cost of doing business. Do your part as a Sac Osage Electric Co-op member. Make a difference by voting for you District Director on June 11.

We appreciate your patronage and support.



**Tom Killebrew**  
Manager

### **10 ways to prep for summer's heat**

It's mid-spring, and you're in a cleaning and fix-er-upper frenzy as you think about the blast of heat just around the corner. If you haven't already taken care of these spring efficiency chores, light a fire under your spouse and tackle these now:

1. Check out your air conditioner to make sure it's working properly before you need it.
2. That includes cleaning and replacing filters.
3. Clean and shade your condensing unit, and remove dead leaves and grass that could block air flow.
4. Ask your heating, ventilation and air conditioning contractor about installing dampers to restrict the flow of cooled air to rooms you rarely use and talk with the contractor about whether closing doors or registers in those rooms will affect your system's efficiency.
5. Clear attic vents if you have an attic fan.
6. Clean out the grill and solar oven so you're ready to move cooking outside.
7. Close the fireplace flue.
8. Weatherstrip, caulk and insulate to keep the hot air out. For our climate zone, the most common types of insulation should be 15 to 18 inches deep in the attic.
9. Reverse the blades on your ceiling fan so they turn counterclockwise and blow air downward.
10. Repaint your house a lighter color. Spring's the time to lighten up your house's dark exterior with lighter paint that will reflect most of the sun's radiant energy in contrast to the 70 to 80 percent that a dark color will absorb.



#### **Energy Efficiency**

#### *Tip of the Month*

Make sure your refrigerator is on your spring-cleaning to-do list. Throw out expired items, clean the refrigerator inside and out, and check the temperature gauge. For maximum operating efficiency, a refrigerator's temperature should be between 37 and 40 degrees.

**Just a friendly reminder that  
May is catch up month for those  
members on Budget Billing.**