

country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Winterizing the Farm

Parents, use this checklist to get your farm winter ready.
Kids, color and send in for a special prize!

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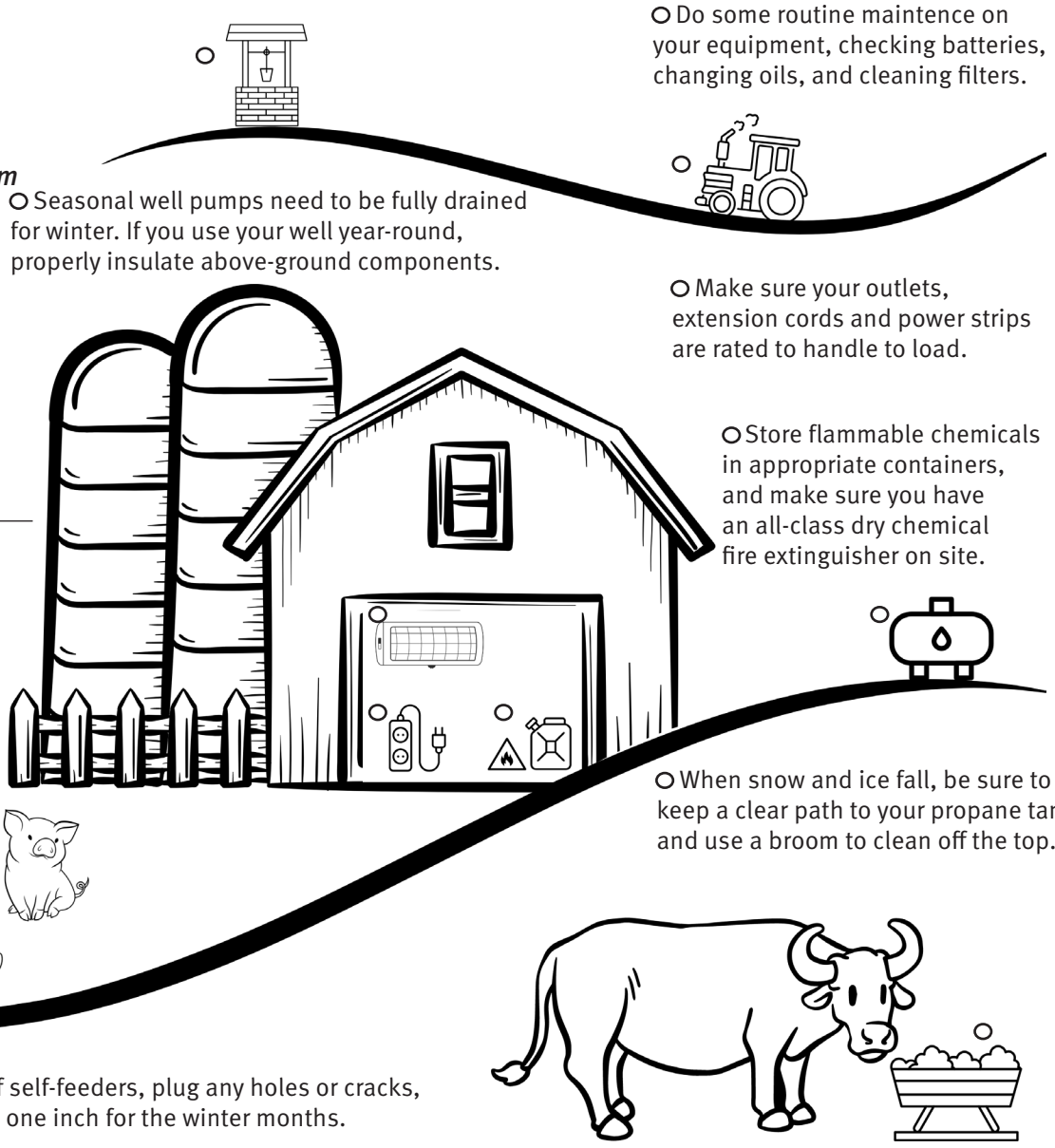
Name: _____

Age: _____

Please send a photo of your artwork to East Central Electric Cooperative via Facebook/Instagram Messenger or mail a hard copy to C/O Member Relations P.O. Box 1178 Okmulgee, OK 74447.

○ Check heaters, fuse boxes, and wiring. All electrical equipment should be inspected and tested before use.

○ Test the heating elements on automatic waterers to make sure they are functioning. Replace if they show signs of wear.



○ Do some routine maintenance on your equipment, checking batteries, changing oils, and cleaning filters.

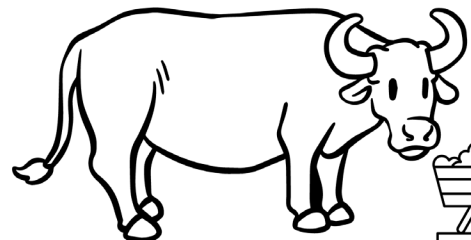
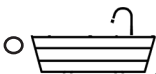


○ Make sure your outlets, extension cords and power strips are rated to handle to load.

○ Store flammable chemicals in appropriate containers, and make sure you have an all-class dry chemical fire extinguisher on site.



○ When snow and ice fall, be sure to keep a clear path to your propane tank and use a broom to clean off the top.



○ Clean out build-up inside of self-feeders, plug any holes or cracks, and set the feeder opening to one inch for the winter months.



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.....

To learn more about your elected trustees, or to view a district map, please visit ecoec.com. To contact your trustee, please call 918-756-0833.

On September 10 several special people gathered in Slick, Oklahoma, to publicly announce the intended arrival of high-speed internet through East Central Electric's (ECE) fiber to the home project called ecoLINK. Crystal Campbell representing Senator Markwayne Mullin, Mack Savala representing Senator James Lankford, Nathan Dethloff representing Congressman Frank Lucas, Kyle Hilbert, presumptive Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and a member of ECE, Scott Fetgatter, State Representative and an ECE member, Jim Meek, Chairman of the Board of Oklahoma Broadband Office and a member of ECE, Mike Sanders, the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Broadband Office, Chris Meyers and Jim Reese from the Oklahoma Association of Electric Co-ops along with several top executives of ECE, and many other interested people joined in this historic moment for the residents of Slick and many other small communities and towns within the footprint of East Central to obtain financial support through the Oklahoma Broadband Office.

This support will continue East Central's efforts to provide high speed internet to unserved or underserved people that are not ECE members, with the same high-quality internet that our members now enjoy.

On other days we continue to search for the right individual to step into the winner's circle at ECE to continue our high level of expectations as CEO.

The summer before I entered the 7th grade we moved back to the country from our town life in Cleveland, OK. We rented 80 acres with a 4-room house and soon started renting additional land along the Arkansas River. The farthest upriver parcel had a huge two story house on it (we called it the king's palace). Daddy knew a man in Prue whose wife had died and had five kids needing a place to live, so he moved them into the King's Palace.

Damon was the middle child and about 2 years younger than me. We became good friends and spent many days and nights together. They were a long time moving their stuff from Prue around to our side of the river. I was 13 years old, and Damon would have been about 11-12, and he spent Friday night with me. We got up early Saturday morning and left out about daylight to walk/swim across the river to Prue to bring their team of horses and wagon over.

A gravel road connected Highway 99 NE of Cleveland along the river to Osage, Prue, and on to Sand Springs. When we got to their place about one mile from Prue we found the wagon was loaded with long stalks of sugar cane but had a flat tire. We used some rocks as a fulcrum, took a long pole, and were able to pry the wheel up, removed it and rolled it down the road about a mile to a station in Prue where the man patched the tire. We rolled it back to the wagon and put it on. The French door to the hallway of the barn had been left open and the two horses had their fill out of a 55-gallon barrel

of black-eyed peas. One was showing signs of colic. We knew not to let her lay down, but to keep her moving, so we harnessed the two, hooked them to the wagon and away we went.

It was three or four miles up to Osage. We had enough money between us to buy a 10-cent ice cream bar on a stick and shared it. The one mare was kicking at her stomach trying to lay down, but Damon wouldn't let her stop. When we reached the highway to cross the Arkansas River bridge it was late afternoon. The bridge along with the bridge railings were almost a mile long. I was afraid someone would run us over from behind, so I ran along behind the wagon to 'flag traffic.' A big dump truck came meeting us and sideswiped our load of sugar cane stalks that were hanging over both sides scattering some of them down the road as he continued on.

I was petrified but raced on trying to keep up with the running wagon. It was pretty dark when we got to Cleveland. Luckily Damon's uncle lived on the near edge of town, so we made it there, exhausted and hungry. I don't remember how my Dad found us. There were no phones at our house. I don't even remember him being upset with us. We weren't smart enough to tell anyone our plans. We felt triumphant in saving the colicking horse and getting the remaining sugar cane stalks home the next day. I forgot to mention-- we were barefooted. It would not be smart to swim the river with our shoes on. It would have ruined them.

Meet Our Next Level Team: Member and Public Relations

As a Cooperative, East Central Electric is owned by every member who receives electricity. While other departments perform the day-to-day tasks of delivering reliable power and internet, our member relations department has the big-picture task of establishing and maintaining relationships with the members and communities we serve.

The Relations Ringleader



Our Vice President of Member and Public Relations oversees the work of all the member relations team while also leading special projects, maintaining budgets, working closely with housing developers, and coordinating the co-op's most important event of the year, the Annual Meeting of Co-op Members. She also assists members who have serious concerns and serves as their advocate among the co-op's employees, management, and Board of Trustees.

The Community Connector



Our Economic Development and Community Representative ensures that the Cooperative has a seat at the table in Chambers of Commerce, economic development opportunities, and legislative affairs. She coordinates resources to assist communities we serve and member-owned businesses. She also coordinates the Cooperatives foundation, Operation Round-Up, assisting individuals as they navigate the application process and serving as the recordkeeper for the Board as they award grants.

The Storytelling Strategist



Our Communications Representative oversees print and digital connection points with members including social media, newsletters, the website, and email communications. The day-to-day work can involve anything from turning the Country Living Newsletter into a coloring page contest, to managing 24-hour crisis communications during a major weather event.

The Solution Seeker



Our Energy Services Representative is responsible for working with members to resolve high bill concerns and connecting members to available energy services programs including efficiency rebates, water heaters, surge arrestors and generator transfer switches. He also coordinates subscriptions to our Community Solar Farm, and works with members who have electric vehicles to get a discounted rate for off-peak charging.

The Program Pioneer

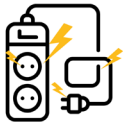


Our Youth and Plugged-In Programs Coordinator visits school classrooms and community events to educate people on Cooperatives and electrical safety. She coordinates live wire demonstrations and exciting youth opportunities like Leadership Summit, Energy Camp, Oklahoma Youth Tour, and scholarships.

The Admin Anchor



Our Member Relations Administrative Assistant fills in the gaps on projects and programs and assists with meetings and events such as Operation Round-Up Board meetings and Employee Safety meetings. She also prepares reports, keeps inventory, and orders supplies as needed.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Electrical safety is important everywhere, even when you're hunting out in the woods. It is not safe to fire at power lines, insulators, or conductor cans. It is also not safe to lean a tree stand against a utility pole.

SOURCE: SAFELECTRICITY.ORG



Sweet Potato Pie

INGREDIENTS

2 C. cooked sweet potatoes	1 stick butter
1 C. sugar	1 tsp. nutmeg
1 C. Milk	2 eggs
	1 pie crust

DIRECTIONS

Whip 2 C. sweet potatoes. Add eggs, sugar, butter, and nutmeg. Add milk last. Pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake in hot oven at 350° for 50 minutes or until filling sets.

SOURCE: ECE 85TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK



ORNAMENT CONTEST

1. Create an ornament based on your favorite show or movie.
2. Enter by submitting your ornament to our office by 12/16/24.

Voting will take place December 16th - 31st. You can cast your ballot by visiting the ECE Lobby or the ecoLINK Facebook page.

Winner will be announced on Facebook January 2, 2025 and will receive 6 months FREE ecoLINK internet service.

**Contestants must be ecoLINK subscribers or live in an area where ecoLINK service is available.*



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COUNTRY LIVING IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY EAST CENTRAL OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., 2001 S. WOOD DRIVE, OKMULGEE, OKLAHOMA 74447. THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER, VETERAN/DISABLED.