



News you can use

Editor, Patsy Whitehead

Featured above: Nolin RECC Line Technician Leonard Hamilton, 31 years of service

Co-op America

Cooperatives are as American as baseball and apple pie. Though the modern cooperative wasn't established until 1844, Ben Franklin got the member-owned business ball rolling in this country as early as 1752. Borrowing a British business model, he convinced neighbors to join him in forming an insurance company owned by policyholders. The idea caught on.

Today, cooperatives, like Nolin RECC, are an everyday part of life in the United States. These co-op businesses are a powerful economic force, distinctive because they are owned and controlled by the people who use their products or services.

U.S. cooperatives serve some 130 million members. But nearly everyone experiences a daily co-op connection. Wherever you live, work, or shop, it's likely a cooperative is involved.

Cooperatives are behind some of the best-known names in America. Producer co-ops make brands such as Cabot cheese, Blue Diamond almonds, and Welch's grape juice. Insurance giant



Nationwide and outdoor equipment retailer REI are member-owned businesses.

Your Taco Bell lunch has a cooperative link, too. Many fast-food franchises acquire their ingredients through a purchasing co-op. Ace and True Value hardware retailers secure their inventory the same way.

Almost anything you eat has co-op roots. Virtually every restaurant serving of butter was made in a plant owned by dairy farmers. The same is true of the cheese that topped your burger or pizza.

Chances are good that the main ingredient in that all-American apple pie was grown by—you guessed it—members of a producer co-op.

With cooperatives making such a mark on the everyday lives of Americans, maybe it's time to revise that well-known jingle to: "Baseball, hot dogs, apple pie...and the co-op way!"

From the intro to A Day in the Life of Cooperative America, a project of the National Co-op Month Committee, by Donna Foster Abernathy. Download the book from the Internet for free by going to www.KentuckyLiving.com, typing "co-op day" in the Keyword Search box, and clicking "Go."



Ron and Stephanie Whitlock of LaRue County built a new home on land that has been in the family since 1924. "My dad likes to tell the story about the day the power lines were energized on the Whitlock farm," says Ron. The Whitlocks are proud of their co-op roots and their relationship with Nolin RECC and its employees. See the Whitlocks' story on page 2A.

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Family Traditions and Co-op Roots

Geothermal heating and cooling becomes family tradition for Whitlocks

LaRue County residents Ron and Stephanie Whitlock live in a new home on Whitlock Road. Ron's brothers Barry, Billy, and Ricky all have property on the farm, which once served as a boyhood stomping ground for the four brothers. "Everyone on this road is my relative," says 48-year-old Ron. "My parents (Asa and Margaret) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past January in the same home on Whitlock Road where my brothers and I were raised."

The Whitlock family actually moved to the farm in 1924, before electricity arrived in LaRue County. "My dad likes to tell the story about the day the power lines were energized on the Whitlock farm," says Ron. "My grandparents raised seven boys and four girls on this farm—we have roots to the co-op."

With such deep roots to the co-op and the vast land on Whitlock Road, making a decision where to build a new home was easy for Ron and Stephanie. Another easy decision for the couple came when they talked about which heating and cooling system would be the most energy efficient.

"We read all the reports about geothermal heating and cooling and compared energy-efficiency levels to other types of systems, and geothermal came out number one," says Ron. "Plus, my brother and his wife, Barry and Melanie, put geothermal in their new home seven years ago and continue to praise the system."

Nolin RECC Energy Management



New homeowners Ron and Stephanie Whitlock of Hodgenville review their past year's energy usage with Nolin RECC Energy Management Coordinator Todd Drake.

Coordinator Todd Drake worked with the Whitlocks while they were building their home to ensure required energy-efficiency standards were met so the family could take advantage of the co-op's Touchstone Energy Home rebate. Drake visited the home several times to check insulation levels as well as the installation of their geothermal system. After the home was completed, Drake performed a blower door test, which measures the air infiltration in the home.

"We knew we were building a good house," says Stephanie, "but consulting with Nolin throughout the process really gave us comfort."

The Whitlocks liked the partnership they had with the co-op and were excited about lowering their energy bills after living in an old farm house and heating with LP gas and electricity.

"The reassurance we got from Nolin really made building a new home a lot

easier," says Stephanie. "We were investing a lot of money in our new home and one of the things we were most concerned with was decreasing our energy bills."

Lower energy bills are exactly what the Whitlocks got with their geothermal heating and cooling system. Drake estimates the family's average monthly heating cost to be around \$90 and average monthly cooling cost is about \$40 per month.

Heating and cooling a 3,000-square-foot home with two teenage boys coming in and out is a challenge. But these days, when the electric bill arrives, the Whitlocks aren't afraid to open the mail. Plus, the \$900 Touchstone Energy Home rebate the family received from Nolin will go a long way in paying their electric bill for months to come! ■

CELEBRATING COOPERATIVE MONTH

FREE LIGHT BULBS

on FLUORESCENT FRIDAYS



Photo: Energy Star

Nolin wants to show our appreciation to you by celebrating National Cooperative Month with a special gift for members. We have declared every Friday in October as “Fluorescent Friday.” Members who visit the Elizabethtown or Radcliff office on Fridays during the month of October will receive a FREE compact fluorescent light bulb!



These are the same energy-efficient bulbs we give to members at the Nolin annual meetings. The compact fluorescent bulbs last up to six times longer than standard bulbs and you save 75% on energy usage every time you turn on the light.

Please stop in the Nolin RECC offices during October to celebrate your cooperative—your ownership!

10-21-0127-01

We Need **YOU** for Nolin RECC’s Member Advisory Council

The Member Advisory Council (MAC) is made up of interested Nolin members from throughout the service area. Are you willing to give the management and directors of Nolin your ideas and opinions about how the cooperative can best serve the members? Are you willing to help your cooperative better understand the needs of the membership? Are you willing to attend at least two evening meetings per year to learn more about your cooperative’s operations?

If you are interested in helping your cooperative and serving on the Member Advisory Council, please complete the form below and mail it to: Member Services Department, Nolin RECC, 411 Ring Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701-6767, or call (270)765-6153.

The next meeting will be October 21.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Acct. No. _____

Why do you want to be a member of the Advisory Council?

Washington Youth Tour Students Learn about Cooperatives & H



The Youth Tour delegates stop to pose for a picture in the gardens of Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson. Left to right are Casey Goodson, Ariel Waldeck, Veronica Helm, Molly Proffitt, and Olivia Dvorjak.

Learning about cooperatives is mandatory for students who participate in the Washington Youth Tour. As part of the competition process, high school juniors whose parents are served by Nolin must write an essay and take a quiz on cooperatives. The top-ranking five students receive a FREE trip to Washington in June, along with a FREE education on cooperatives!

The Youth Tour is an excellent way to learn while having fun. The five Nolin delegates joined about 70 other high school juniors from across the state as they toured historic monuments and museums and learned how our government operates. In addition, the group met with their elected representatives in the U.S. House and

Senate to discuss the process of government and mounting concerns that affect our country. The weeklong trip provided students opportunities to learn firsthand what it is like to be involved in politics, community service, and today's pressing issues.

The Kentucky Rural Electric

Interested in applying?

Applicants for the Washington Youth Tour must be juniors in high school and their parents or legal guardians must be a member of the co-op and live on Nolin RECC lines. The process is very simple and includes a brief essay, quiz, and personal interview. Watch for next year's application in the February 2009 *Nolin News*.

Washington Youth Tour is conducted by the Louisville-based Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives on behalf of 22 participating Kentucky electric distribution co-ops. The activity is part of a larger, nationwide youth program sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in Arlington, Virginia, that brings almost 1,500 high school students to the nation's capital each year.

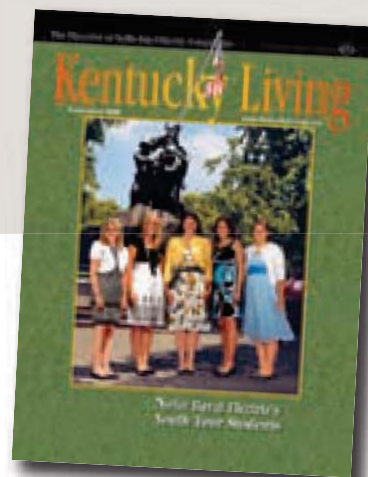
Olivia Dvorjak said her knowledge of our government has grown drastically through visiting national buildings and listening to her elected officials. "While I learned about our nation and inspiring individuals, at the same time I was able to meet some of Kentucky's finest teenagers," says

Have Fun Too

Olivia. "I thank Nolin RECC for allowing me to be a part of this journey."

"I spent eight weeks away from home this summer, and this trip was by far the most rewarding trip I experi-

The five Nolin RECC Washington Youth Tour students are featured on the cover of *Kentucky Living*. The 2008 delegates are (left to right) Casey Goodson, Ariel Waldeck, Veronica Helm, Molly Proffitt, and Olivia Dvorjak.



Ariel Waldeck, left, Casey Goodson, and Amanda Lynch, a delegate from Meade County RECC, stop for a photo at the U. S. Navy memorial on Pennsylvania Avenue as they tour Washington, D.C.

Olivia Dvorjak, Molly Proffitt, and Veronica Helm take a break from touring to enjoy a snack!

enced," says **Molly Proffitt**. Trading state pins is always a popular event during the tour and Molly says she came home with more than 20 pins from other Youth Tour delegates.

Casey Goodson says one of her favorite moments in Washington was watching a beautiful sunset while sailing on the Potomac River. "Washington, D.C., is beautiful in the daytime, but just as gorgeous at night," says Casey. "Seeing the Washington Monument illuminated in the dark was breathtaking. Because of this trip, I now have many wonderful memories and lots of new friends that I will cherish my entire life." ■



Investing in the Future

Nolin RECC 2008 Scholarship Recipients

Seven local students are attending college this fall with a little help from Nolin RECC. Each year, your cooperative awards a total of \$7,000 in college scholarships to students whose parents or legal guardians are members of Nolin. We also award a \$1,000 scholarship to an adult who is going back to school after spending time away from the classroom.

Each year, the selection process for Nolin gets harder. There are so many outstanding students in our community who

deserve consideration for a scholarship. More and more young people are spending more time helping to improve their community. In addition, they are excelling in advanced-level classes and most are participating in extracurricular activities.

The 2008 Nolin RECC scholarship recipients are Emily Johnson, Thomas Langham, Letrisha Nowlin, Joshua Ragland, Shawn Smith, Travis Thomas, and Brittany Wicker.



Shawn Smith graduated from North Hardin High School with a 3.8 grade point average while maintaining an active involvement in school, church, and working part time at McDonald's. Shawn served his senior class as vice president. He was in the gifted student program at North Hardin and was also elected governor of Kentucky Boy's State. His high school teachers describe him as a role model, an inspiration, and a person of character. Shawn is enrolled at Morehead State University, where he plans to obtain a degree in education. His goal is to teach special education in Hardin County. Shawn's parents are Jeffrey and Rebecca Smith of Vine Grove.



Emily Johnson is a graduate of LaRue County High School, where she excelled academically in the classroom and athletically on the volleyball court. She was also involved in several school clubs and organizations and served as secretary for Future Farmers of America. Emily maintained a 3.78 grade point average in high school while working at Lee's Garden Center in Hodgenville. One of Emily's high school teachers said, "I respect her hard work and commitment to being the best...her willingness to take on the responsibilities of her job is amazing for a high school student." Emily is currently enrolled at the University of Kentucky and one day hopes to return home and teach agriculture. Her parents are Kenneth and Sara Redmon.



Travis Thomas is enrolled at Elizabethtown Community and Technical College to begin general studies in business. "I see myself owning my own business one day...I could provide services that would better my own community," says Travis as he writes about his desire to pursue a career in business. With a 3.7 grade point average from Central Hardin High School, Travis is sure to succeed in any business he decides to begin. His interest in business inspired him to participate in the American Private Enterprise System (APES) program during his junior year in high school. In addition, Travis was very active in many of the clubs and organizations his school offered while working part time at the Movie Palace Theater. Travis lives in Elizabethtown with his parents, Floyd and Carol Thomas.



Thomas Langham is this year's continuing education scholarship recipient. He and his wife, Elizabeth, and their four children live in Hodgenville. Mr. Langham is active in Boy Scouts of America—his service expands from Cubmaster to training committee member. Having already earned his associate degree in interdisciplinary early childhood education, Thomas is eager to obtain his bachelor of science degree in this field. He is working very hard to accomplish his education goal by attending both the Elizabethtown Community Technical College and Campbellsville University. "I want a career in early childhood education so that the kids we serve have the best education sources, the best educators, and a safe place for both," says Thomas.



Letrisha Nowlin is a former Nolin RECC Washington Youth Tour delegate and a graduate of John Hardin High School. Her parents are Ronnie and Sylvanie Nowlin of Elizabethtown. This young lady has a page full of community service projects on her resumé including Hardin County Teen Court member and peer tutoring for disabled high school students. In addition to her demanding school load and extracurricular activities, Latrisha worked part time during her senior year. Today, she is enrolled at the University of Louisville to obtain a degree in dentistry. Later, she plans to continue her education in orthodontics. One of her teachers wrote, "Letrisha is a well-rounded girl and encompasses the traits others so admire—beauty, brains, and talent, and above all else, empathy and compassion for her peers."



Joshua Ragland graduated as a home-schooled student from Shady Rest Academy where he earned a 4.0 grade point average. His parents are David and Debbie Ragland of Hodgenville. His mother says throughout his school years, Josh has been the family's feed mill operator and record keeper, and has maintained a lawn mowing business. Josh has an active leadership role in youth ministry at his church and volunteers in his community. Joshua has plans to return to Magnolia after he earns his business administration degree from Bryan College in Dayton, Tennessee. He also has a dream to continue farming the land that has been in Joshua's family for nine generations. "In so doing I will hopefully provide food for many Americans and others worldwide," says Joshua.



Brittany Wicker is a recent graduate of Elizabethtown High School, where she was involved in club activities as well as serving on the Superintendent's Advisory Board where she represented her classmates at monthly meetings. Her parents are Mark and Denise Wicker of Elizabethtown. Brittany volunteers at her church, rings the Salvation Army bell at Christmastime, and serves as a mentor in the "Big Brothers/Big Sisters" organization. "She is always the first to lend a hand in the classroom, help out a fellow student, and volunteer in any way," says a former teacher. With a schedule like this, amazingly Brittany found time to work part time for Kerrick, Stivers, Coyle, and Van Zant Law offices. The experience she gains working at the law firm will help Brittany as she attends the University of Kentucky and later when she studies law.

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RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CORPORATION

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

We've Got Your \$25 Number! \$25

WIN \$25 Worth of FREE Electricity

Nolin News features a contest called "We've Got Your Number." Hidden inside this issue are two randomly selected member account numbers. If you spot your account number, contact the Member Services Department at 765-6153, and win a \$25 CREDIT on your electric bill. You must identify your number and call by the 15th day of the month's issue containing your number. Account numbers could be anywhere in your *Nolin News*!

New Member Credits

All members signing up for new service with Nolin receive a short survey. Members who return the completed survey to Nolin are automatically eligible to win a \$20 credit on their electric bill. Each month, one name is drawn and a lucky Nolin member receives a bill credit on their next statement. Congratulations to our latest winner, **Peter D. Hudson**, of **Elizabethtown**.

E-mail payments

Access your Nolin RECC account through our Web site at **www.nolinrecc.com**. Click on "MyAccount" to check your consumption history and to make payments by check, debit card, or credit card. To apply for budget billing and automatic draft on line, click on "Nolin @ Home."

Another Annual Meeting WINNER



\$50 electric
bill credit
awarded to
co-op
member

Congratulations to Nolin RECC member **Donald E. Mather** of Hodgenville. Mr. Mather identified more than 23 people pictured at the annual meeting in the August *Nolin News* on pages 2A and 3A. As a lifetime Nolin member and former employee of the U. S. Postal Service and Wal-Mart, it's no wonder Mr. Mather knew so many folks. In addition, he and his wife, Lahoma, have been attending the Nolin RECC annual meetings for countless years. His daughter, Jo (Mather) Million, was crowned Miss Nolin RECC in 1983.

Mr. Mather's \$50 electric bill credit is a great reward for the few minutes it took to send in the contest entry!

HOW TO REACH NOLIN RECC

ELIZABETHTOWN OFFICE

411 Ring Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701-6767
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Mon-Fri • (270) 765-6153

RADCLIFF OFFICE

101 West Lincoln Trail Blvd., Radcliff, KY 40160
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Mon-Fri • (270) 351-2199

TOLL-FREE BUSINESS CALLS — 1-888-637-4247

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER — (270) 769-6396

EMERGENCY TOLL-FREE CALLS — 1-800-572-1147

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