

# NEWS

RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CORPORATION

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



The power of human connections

411 Ring Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701-6767

Patsy Whitehead, Editor

## From the President & CEO

# Update on charges that affect your bill

Members continue to ask about the fuel adjustment clause and the environmental surcharge that appears on the monthly electric bill. Unfortunately, these two charges have not gone away and will more than likely remain on your bill for some time.

The fuel adjustment clause represents the costs incurred by Nolin's wholesale power supplier for fuel and purchased power. Just like the increasing costs of gasoline, our power supplier is experiencing increases in the fuel to make electricity.

This environmental surcharge pays for the costs to meet federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations on power plant emissions. Day by day, the EPA continues to tighten these regulations.

Nolin does not retain any revenue from these two charges. Every penny of the revenue from the fuel adjustment and the environmental surcharge is passed directly back to East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC), our not-for-profit power supplier located in Winchester.

Even though these costs are beyond our control, we all work together to cut some costs that are within our power. EKPC has undertaken a major effort to

reduce operating costs by millions of dollars. Here are just a few of the changes they are making to help reduce rising energy costs:

- Steps are being taken to blend fuel types and find less expensive alternatives.
- EKPC has plans to build scrubbers on two generating plants that will help meet government clean air regulations.
- Last year, EKPC started operation of one of the cleanest coal-generating units in the nation, and has begun construction of an identical unit. A third unit of this kind is planned for construction.

We must all do our part to combat high energy prices. First, make it your responsibility to lower your electric usage by taking control of your thermostat—keep the setting on a constant temperature this summer—one that you can tolerate comfortably.

There are some simple steps you can take to help keep your home cool.

- Close window blinds and curtains, use a shaded outside door to enter and exit your home, and use your oven only when necessary.
- Turn down your water heaters. Water heaters, heating/cooling systems, and other appliances consume a lot of electricity.
- Sign up for levelized billing. It

eliminates the cost swings in your bill. No matter what the weather is outside, your electric bill won't be a surprise.

There are many simple and inexpensive ways to lower your bill. A free copy of our *Simple Savings* energy tips is available at the Nolin offices.

Call or stop by the Nolin office to ask about some programs we have that will help you reduce your electric usage. One of our Touchstone Energy Living programs, including free energy audits, can make your home more energy efficient.

Even as we continue to tighten our belt, our commitment to outstanding service to our member-owners will continue.

Despite the challenges of rising energy costs across the world, we're all in this together and together we have the power to make a difference.



**Mickey Miller**  
President & CEO

# Dad's advice *pays off*

by Patsy Whitehead

Almost 20 years ago, Eugene Bradley and his wife, Shirley, decided to install geothermal heating and cooling in their home. Since that time, the senior Bradley is convinced nothing is more energy efficient than geothermal. In fact, he is so convinced geothermal is the best, he persuaded his two sons, Del and Lloyd, to give it a try.

Lloyd installed geothermal about three years ago and has been pleased since day one. Del is the newest Bradley to decide on geothermal. He and his wife, Melinda, just moved into their new home about four months ago, and so far, they



*Del and Melinda Bradley of Rineyville took some good advice from Dad (Eugene Bradley) and installed geothermal heating and cooling in their new home. The couple say they would install the system with or without a cash rebate from Nolin.*

are more than pleased with the comfort level as well as the electric bills.

The young Bradleys already knew the heating and cooling system would be geothermal, but they wanted to ensure the rest of the home met similar levels of high efficiency. Working with Nolin RECC Energy Management Coordinator Todd Drake, the couple got just what they wanted in their new home—an Energy Star rating of “5”!

Drake performed an extensive procedure called “blower door testing” on the Bradleys’ home to prove its efficiency. During this test, a large fan is installed in an exterior door, pushing air out of the home, which creates a vacuum in the house and allows the homeowner and builder to find any areas of air leakage.

Del and Melinda’s home received high ratings on the blower door test. In fact, it met the high standards required to qualify as a Touchstone Energy Home (this program is mod-

eled after the Energy Star Home Program). So Dad’s advice on geothermal, coupled with the high Energy Star rating, earned the Bradleys a \$900 cash rebate from Nolin RECC.

Melinda says, “Everyone we talked with endorsed geothermal.” She says it was never really a hard decision to make: “We were going to use geothermal with or without the rebate because it is the best heating and cooling source available. We just received this month’s bill (June) and it only cost us \$79 to cool our 5,000-square-foot home.”

The Bradleys say the help they received from Nolin was most appreciated. “Todd Drake was great to work with,” says Del. “He took a lot of the stress out of building a new home by offering advice and working with us on the energy-efficiency level in the home—we can’t thank him enough.”

To find out more about Nolin’s energy savings programs and rebates, call Todd Drake at (270) 765-6153.

# Farm safety is no accident

**D**id you know that the agricultural industry is one of the most dangerous? In 2000, it claimed more lives than any other industry, with 22.5 deaths per 100,000 people, according to the National Safety Council. Proper use of safety devices that come with farm equipment can reduce the number of injuries and deaths that occur each year.

Especially at risk are children playing near and around farm equipment. Don't give children chores they can't safely handle and don't leave them unsupervised.



## Safety tips for farm work

- All tractors should be equipped with a roll-over protective structure
- Don't let another person hitch a ride on the tractor
- If driving a tractor on the highway always post a "Slow Moving Vehicle" emblem
- Equip your tractor with a bypass starter cover
- Keep power tools in good condition and check cords and plugs for wear before using
- Power tools should be properly grounded or double-insulated



**The offices of Nolin RECC will be closed  
Monday, September 4,  
in observance of Labor Day**

# Operation Round-Up Makes a *Positive* Change

Nolin introduced a new program at our annual meeting in June, and since that time about 235 members have agreed to join with others to make a big difference in their community. The program is designed to round up members' electric bills to the nearest dollar. The extra change you pay is put into a special account and is used to help support worthy causes in the community.



Enrollment is voluntary and you don't even have to come into the office to sign up—just call (270) 765-6153 and enroll over the telephone.

Join together with other Nolin members to help make a big difference in your community—join Operation Round-Up today!

11-25-0331-05

# The Power of Education

Seven local students will head to college this fall with a little help from their local electric cooperative, Nolin RECC. Each year, Nolin awards a total of \$7,000 in college scholarships. Applications start pouring into the office in February from local high school seniors. We also award a \$1,000 scholarship to an adult who is going back to school after spending time away from the classroom scene.

It was very difficult to narrow our many recipients down to just seven. Students 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 2006 Nolin RECC scholarship recipients are Allyson Adams, Donna Dixon, Allison Peace, Stephanie Peters, Frankie Skaggs, Nick Stuecker, and Jared Yates.*

## Allyson Adams

Allyson graduated as a home school student from Heartland Christian Home Educators. She is one of six children born to Eric and Peggy Adams of Glendale.



Allyson completed her senior year with a 3.9 GPA while also working at the Hardin County Library. She is enrolled at Bryan College in Dayton, Tennessee. Some day Allyson hopes to be a nurse practitioner and says, "Even though it might be difficult at times, I am looking forward with excitement to the new phase of my life that is about to begin."

## Donna Dixon

This year's continuing education scholarship recipient is Elizabethtown resident



Donna Dixon. Donna and her husband, James, have

two daughters (Shalonda and Kesha) who are also enrolled in college. Donna went back to college after raising her two girls and received an associate degree from Elizabethtown Community College in 2002. Now she is eager to earn her bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University. Donna works at Lakewood Elementary as a media specialist assistant and wants to continue her career in the school system – perhaps as a teacher. Helping students and volunteering gives Donna fulfillment, especially now that her daughters are grown. "Community service not only has a positive impact on the community," says Donna, "it also has a positive effect on the individual working to improve the life of someone else."

## Allison Peace

Math has always been exciting to Elizabethtown High School graduate Allison Peace. In fact, after she graduates from Western Kentucky University,

Allison says she wants to teach math: "As a teacher, I will have the chance to convey my knowledge of, and passion for, mathematics to high school students, so they



can use it to make a difference in our world." Her former high school math teacher, Preston Bailey, gives her high praises, saying he is confident Allison will excel in whatever field she pursues. Allison proved him right by achieving a 3.9 grade point average in school along with distinguishing herself as an outstanding athlete. Allison's parents are Tim and Belinda Peace of Elizabethtown.

## Stephanie Peters

Stephanie wants to be a radiologist. Better yet, after she graduates from Elizabethtown Community and Technical College,



## Selecting Scholars

The selection process for the scholarships is based on four aspects:

- Grade Point Average (25%)
- Community & Personal Achievement (15%)
- School Involvement (15%)
- Financial Need (45%)

# Nolin RECC scholars head to college

Stephanie intends to stay in the area and land a job locally. She says, "I can make a bigger difference in the community if I choose one that has a larger need." Her counselors at John Hardin High School describe Stephanie as creative, thoughtful, and intelligent. They are impressed with Stephanie's work ethics she displayed as an assistant in the counselor's office and her ability to maintain a 3.6 grade point average while working at Nielson Media Research. Stephanie is the daughter of David and Belinda Peters of Elizabethtown.

## Frankie Skaggs

LaRue County High School graduate Frankie Skaggs looks forward to becoming a nurse in the next few years. Obtaining her nursing degree from St. Catharine College and gaining several years of experience as a nurse will position Frankie for her dream job—a head nurse in labor and delivery. During high school, Frankie was active in FFA, winning several club competitions and awards and consistently held a 3.6 grade point average. Frankie's parents are Eddie and Brenda Skaggs of Buffalo. Keep an eye out for Frankie in about four years as she helps to deliver our future youth scholars.



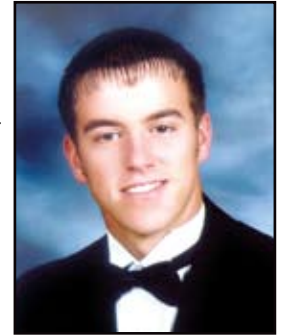
Judging. Nick took home several Livestock Showmanship awards and is a nine-time county fair grand champion in various species (swine, goats, and sheep). So it is no wonder he wants to attend Western Kentucky University to earn a degree in agriculture economics and agronomy. The son of Charles and Brenda Stuecker of Elizabethtown, Nick grew up working on the family farm and one day he hopes to work for a farm supply business.

## Jared Yates

The game of baseball is second nature to Jared Yates. He played throughout his high school years at



North Hardin, receiving numerous awards and recognitions. He served as team captain during 2004 – 2006. Jared loves the game so much, he coaches and officiates little league baseball games. This fall, Jared will be playing baseball for the University of Louisville while earning his degree in biology and sports administration. Obviously, sports are not the only strengths Jared possesses. He graduated with honors and as one of his teachers said, "His school spirit, loyalty, and dedication are known throughout the school and contribute to the positive atmosphere in our school." Jared's parents are Jeffrey and Laura Yates of Rineyville.



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*Congratulations to each of our winners. Your friends at Nolin RECC wish you the best of luck in college—and beyond.*

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## Will YOU be attending college next year?

Nolin urges you to take advantage of our scholarship program. We offer six scholarships of \$1,000 each to high school seniors and one scholarship of \$1,000 to a Nolin RECC member who is continuing their education.

To be eligible, applicants or their parents must be Nolin RECC members whose primary residence is in the Nolin service territory. Other restrictions may apply.

Watch for details about how to apply for scholarships next spring.

# The Power of Education Continues

*Nolin RECC is active in many youth programs that help enhance personal growth and develop future careers. In addition to awarding seven college scholarships each year, Nolin annually sends five high school juniors on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. We promote and sponsor the American Private Enterprise Systems, better known as APES, in Hardin and LaRue County. And Nolin helps sponsor state and national seminars that include youth from our area.*

## A hands-on lesson in American government

### Washington Youth Tour 2006

The Washington Youth Tour is an excellent way to have fun while learning about the operation of our government. The five Nolin students join about 80 other high school juniors across the country as they tour historic monuments and museums, meet with their congressmen and senators, eat, talk, and mingle with other delegates from approximately 44 states. It's a week students will never forget!

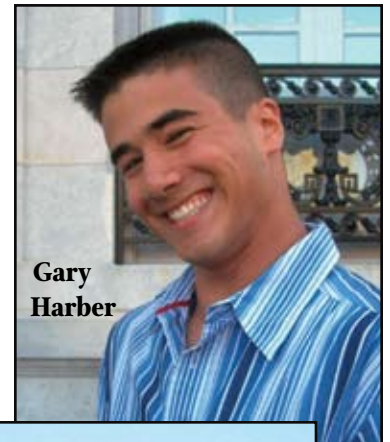
The Nolin delegates were featured on the cover of last month's *Kentucky Living* magazine. A complete story about the tour was included in the magazine.



Emily  
Blakeman



Brooke  
Beard



Gary  
Harber



Cody Gault and  
William Osborne

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**Watch for next year's  
Washington Youth Tour  
application in the February  
2007 *Nolin News*.**

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*On the cover: Nolin RECC's 2006 Washington Youth Tour delegates, standing near the dome of the nation's Capitol.*

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# APES and State Youth Seminar

## A local, state, and national education program in one package

The American Private Enterprise Systems (better known as APES) is well known as one of the leading educational programs throughout Kentucky. High school counselors work with the local APES committee to ensure the program's success year after year. However, APES is just the first step to an exciting and rewarding experience for some Hardin and LaRue County students. Once the local APES seminar is completed, about 10 students from this area are awarded a trip to the state conference held in Lexington. While at the State Youth Seminar, students compete for college scholarships and cash based on individual test scores and group board case studies.

Students who excel at the state level earn a national trip where they experience more complex studies and board cases. It is quite an honor to be selected to attend the National Institute on Cooperative Education (NICE).



*Left: LaRue County students excelled at the State Youth Seminar. Pictured front, left to right, are Breanna Stone, Tempest Dickerson, and Becky Hellman. Rear, Ashley Warren, Misty Wilmoth (LaRue County Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development), and Kaitlyn Tew.*

Last year, Kentucky hosted the national conference. This year, four of the 20 students attending the national conference are from the Nolin service area.

Nolin's communications coordinator, Patsy Whitehead, attends the local, state, and national seminars with area students each year. Patsy also represents Nolin by serving on planning committees and providing speaker services during the conferences.

*Below: Hardin County students did very well during the State Youth Seminar held in Lexington, at the University of Kentucky. Pictured front, left to right, are Kelly Xu, Stephanie Wilson, and Kerrie Bal. Rear, Marla Smith (Hardin County Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development), Ryan Hart, Jennifer Strange, and Patsy Whitehead (Nolin RECC communications coordinator).*

## State Youth Seminar

- Becky Hellman was awarded the Cooperative Spirit Award. She also earned a \$400 scholarship and trip to NICE.
- Ashley Warren earned a \$1,000 scholarship and placed 1st on exercise 2 exam.
- Breanna Stone placed 2nd on exercise 2 exam.
- Ryan Hart earned a \$400 scholarship, placed 1st in exercise 2 exam, and a trip to NICE.
- Jennifer Strange earned a \$400 scholarship, and placed 2nd in exercise 2 exam.
- Kelly Xu earned a \$600 scholarship, placed 1st in exercise 2 exam, and a trip to NICE.
- Stephanie Wilson earned 1st and 3rd place in workshop exams.



*Right: The NICE participants visited Nolin for a tour of the building and a brief orientation on the co-op as part of their pre-conference requirement. Pictured left to right are Kelly Xu, Becky Hellman, Mickey Miller (president & CEO of Nolin RECC), and Ashley Warren.*

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

**\$25 Worth of FREE Electricity**

*Nolin News* features a contest called "We've Got Your Number." Somewhere 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 our *Nolin News* insert!

## 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 \$15 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, David A. Bryant of Cecilia.**

## E-mail payments

Access your Nolin RECC account through our Web site at [www.nolinrecc.com](http://www.nolinrecc.com). Click on "My Account" 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."

# Meter Tampering—

*It's not just the money; it's a safety issue*

**T**ampering with your electric meter can cost you your life.

No, the crime won't land you on death row when the electric cooperative—whose technicians are trained to spot electricity theft—reports you to the police. In that case, you'll be charged with theft, possibly sent to jail, and definitely slapped with fines of up to triple the money you thought you could save by rigging your meter.

But an attempt to bypass or alter an electric meter can result in shock, fire, explosion, or electrocution. And if you're lucky enough not to get hurt, you'll still leave the tampered meter in a state that's dangerous to others, including the electric cooperative employee who reads or maintains it. Plus, you're driving up electrical costs for your neighbors, just as shoplifters force department stores to inflate



the price of their clothes to cover the thefts.

The cooperative does not have to catch you red-handed to turn you over to the police. In fact, the law assumes that a person who benefits from the use of stolen electricity has tampered with the meter.

And your electric cooperative can disconnect your service.

### NOLIN RECC OFFICE LOCATIONS

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### OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday

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RADCLIFF — 351-2199

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

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER 769-6396

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

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