

## AN OPEN BOOK QUIZ MAY EARN YOU \$100

Studying for a simple ten-question quiz on cooperatives may earn you \$100. And to make it easy – the quiz will be open book!

To celebrate the International Year of Cooperatives in 2012, Nolin is creating fact sheets about cooperatives. Each month this bill insert or your *Nolin News* will provide important facts and history about co-ops and Nolin RECC.

At the end of the year the quiz will be printed in the *Nolin News*, your bill insert, and on the Nolin RECC website at [www.nolinrecc.com](http://www.nolinrecc.com). Members who answer the most questions correct will be entered into a drawing to win a \$100 electric bill credit. It's that simple!

Fact number one was printed in the December *Nolin News* on page 26G. If you missed it, you can find the issue on our web site.

### Here is fact number 2 on co-ops:

There are many types of co-ops throughout the United States that generate money and jobs for our economy:

- More than 29,000 cooperatives operate in the U.S.
- The total assets of these co-ops is more than \$3 trillion
- The annual revenue is \$652 billion
- More than two million people are employed by cooperatives



International Year of Cooperatives, this name may seem to be one that will not apply to you. However, one in four Americans are co-op members. And since you are reading this insert you too are a member of a co-op, Nolin RECC.

During the International Year of Cooperatives it's important to remember that cooperatives put people first – NOT the bottom line. Through scholarships, youth tours, and providing families with affordable electric service Nolin RECC is committed to improving the quality of life for its members.

To learn more about this year-long celebration go to [www.2012.coop](http://www.2012.coop).

OVER



## BEGIN SAVING IN 2012 WITH CFLs

Have you noticed the department store shelves are running low on traditional incandescent bulbs? Light bulbs are getting an overhaul. In 2007 Congress passed the Energy Independence and Security Act, calling for incandescent bulbs to be at least 28 percent more efficient starting nationally in January 2012. Each household could save \$50 every year with this change, and those savings add up to be over \$6 billion annually when you combine the savings for all Americans.

You have several efficient light bulb options. If you don't want to stray too far from the bulbs you're used to, consider halogen incandescent light bulbs. They cut energy use by about 25 percent and last three times as long as traditional incandescent bulbs.

How are halogen lights different? A small capsule holds halogen gas around the filament. This minor addition boosts the bulb's lifespan and efficiency. But everything else – the shape, color range, and ability to dim – stays the same as the bulbs you grew up with.

Another distinctive style of bulb should already be familiar – we've been promoting these and giving them away at Nolin's annual meeting for several years – compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). These are the most common and efficient bulb on the market. CFLs offer 75 percent energy savings over traditional incandescent bulbs and last 10 times longer. The trademark swirly style is linked to the concept of efficient lighting.

The last lighting option holds the most promise for our lighting future. Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) are commonly used in electronics. The bulbs are small (about half the size of a pencil eraser) but by banding several bulbs together, a bright and dependable light emerges.

LEDs use 75-80 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs and last 25 times longer – by far the longest lifespan yet for light bulbs. They're expensive, but prices will fall as more folks use the technology.

Ready to start saving? New labels, appearing in January, will help you compare the lumens (light output) from your old bulbs and buy a comparable efficient bulb. You can learn more at [www.energysavers.gov/lighting](http://www.energysavers.gov/lighting).

Start your *New Year* with energy saving light bulbs!



Sincerely,

*Michael L. Miller*

Michael L. "Mickey" Miller  
President and CEO



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