

the Kilowatt

JUNE 2008

published monthly for members of
Kiwash Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Save up to 60%
on prescription
medication!

- ARE WE CREATING A CRISIS TO END A CRISIS?
- STAY COOL THIS SUMMER



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

A well-designed landscape not only adds beauty to your home, but it can also reduce heating and cooling costs. On average, landscaping for energy efficiency provides enough energy savings to return an initial investment in less than eight years.

SOURCE:
U.S. DEPT. OF ENERGY



BILL PAYMENT LOCATIONS

Kiwash Electric
120 W. 1st Street
Cordell, Oklahoma

Custer City Hall
Custer City, Oklahoma

First National Bank
Thomas, Oklahoma



PHOTO/SONDRA BOYKIN, WFEC



PHOTO/LISA WILLARD, KIWASH ELECTRIC

(Photo left) Cordell student Koby Celsor learns it takes a lot of moving air to turn even the smallest turbine. (Above) Using anemometers created during the Earth Day event, Taylor Javorsky and other Cordell students learn about wind speed.

Earth day generates interest in wind

Western Farmers Electric hosts Cordell students at Blue Canyon Wind Farm

Over 90 Cordell students and teachers toured the Blue Canyon Wind Farm on April 22nd in recognition of Earth Day. Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) hosts the event to spread awareness about electrical safety and the benefits of clean renewable wind power.

During the visit, students got a close-up view of the massive wind turbines, which are located in the Wichita Mountains near Lawton. They also attended an electrical-safety demonstration, competed in a recycling relay, and learned to measure wind speed by assembling anemometers using cone-shaped cups.

The first phase of Blue Canyon Wind Farm, which consisted of 45 turbines, began commercial

operations in December 2003. Phase II was completed in December 2005. There are now 129 turbines installed along the mountain ridge. WFEC buys 74.25 megawatts of power produced by 76 of the wind turbines, .





A Touchstone Energy
Cooperative

**KIASH ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

*Providing the service that
lights up your life.*

Office Location

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INSIDE YOUR CO-OP



By Dennis Krueger
GENERAL MANAGER

In the 1980s abundant electricity prevailed in Oklahoma. Unfortunately, that capacity is about to expire. Based on present growth rates, new electric generation facilities may be needed within a few short years. It would take ten years to design and build a nuclear facility; a coal facility requires about five years; and natural gas four years. Oklahoma needs to plan now for future generation, however it is difficult with the U.S. Congress weighing the carbon tax issue. The carbon tax is basically a tax on the burning of fossil fuels that emit carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas associated with global warming.

Congress continues to debate potential solutions to climate change, but do they have all the facts? We must educate ourselves on these matters and convey this information to our elected officials and political candidates. The question we need to ask is, "How are we going to generate affordable electricity to meet Oklahoma's growing needs?"

Our history may hold a key to our future: In the past, hydro, nuclear and coal generated the cheapest electricity by far. In contrast, over the past ten years natural gas prices have soared from \$2 to \$10 per mmbtu. This market instability has resulted in higher electric generating costs. Hydropower comes from the lakes and dam systems in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri, however it's unlikely new dams will be constructed in this part of the country anytime soon. Nuclear power remains a concern due to the waste

materials it produces. Of these options, coal remains the low cost alternative.

The U.S. currently holds enough coal resources to fuel our needs for the next 200 years, and its cost remains consistent and stable. Roughly 57 percent of the electricity generated in the U.S. comes from coal. Consumers paying the highest electric rates today are those who live in states that lack a high percentage of coal-fired generation.

In my opinion renewable resources can't be developed quickly enough or cost-effectively to replace existing coal or nuclear plants or facilities in the planning stage. We encourage our leaders in Washington D.C. to increase spending on viable

renewable research projects. At the same time, we urge Congress not to burden the American public with carbon taxes that will directly impact our future electric bills and pump prices.

Electric cooperatives believe a carbon tax will not decrease electrical consumption in the manner Congress predicts. We believe it *will* place additional financial hardship on low to moderate-income families as well as fixed income consumers. With oil prices at \$100-plus per

barrel and natural gas at \$9-plus mmbtu, these consumers are already burdened with rising electric, diesel, gasoline and propane costs.

Are you ready to pay higher utility bills in an attempt to address global warming? Do you believe a carbon tax will slow climate change? Or do you believe as I do, that the federal government could be creating a new crisis in an attempt to end the current crisis? Remember, our energy and our future are at stake here. Let the dialogue between all Oklahomans and our elected officials begin. Visit www.ourenergy.coop to send your elected officials a message.

The time to act is *now*.

Our Energy, Our Future
A Dialogue With America

**Are we creating
a crisis to end
a crisis?**

**Electric cooperative leaders
believe a carbon tax will place
financial hardships on low to
moderate-income and fixed
income families.**

CO-OP VALUES

Co-op Connections adds pharmacy discount

Save 20 to 60 percent on prescriptions

Kiwash Electric is proud to announce a new benefit for cooperative member-owners. The benefit is part of the Co-op Connections program, and offers savings of 20 to 60 percent on most prescription medications. The Co-op Connections discount is good at 56,000 independent pharmacies, as well as national chains such as Walmart, CVS, Walgreens, Target, Thrifty and more.

Kiwash members will receive new Co-op Connections cards and discount pharmacy information in the mail during the last week of August.

Once you have signed the back of the new card, you may use it at participating pharmacies locally and nationwide.

Remember, your Co-op Connections card is not a credit or debit card, it's a savings card. By showing your card to participating



Coming your way in August!

FIND PARTICIPATING PHARMACIES AND DISCOUNT PRESCRIPTION PRICES ONLINE AT www.rxpricequotes.com OR CALL FOR MORE DETAILS **800-800-7616**

businesses, you qualify for discounts and special deals.

To locate participating pharmacies or view the savings on different medications, please visit www.rxpricequotes.com or call toll free, **800-800-7616**.

To view more than 9,500 other great discounts you can receive with your Connections card go to www.connections.coop.

Co-op Connections is just one more way your cooperative membership pays off!



RECIPE BOX

Prize Winning Baby Back Ribs

INGREDIENTS
 1 tablespoon ground cumin
 1 tablespoon chili powder
 1 tablespoon paprika
 salt and pepper to taste
 3 pounds baby back pork ribs
 1 cup barbeque sauce

DIRECTIONS
 Preheat grill for high heat. In a small jar, combine cumin, chili powder, paprika, salt, and pepper. Close the lid, and shake to mix.

Trim the membrane sheath from the back of each rack. Sprinkle rub onto both sides of the ribs as desired. (Store the unused portion of the spice mix for future use.)

Place aluminum foil on lower rack to capture drippings. Lightly oil grate, and lay ribs on top rack of grill. Reduce heat to low, close lid, and leave undisturbed for 1 hour.

Brush ribs with barbecue sauce, and grill an additional 5 minutes.

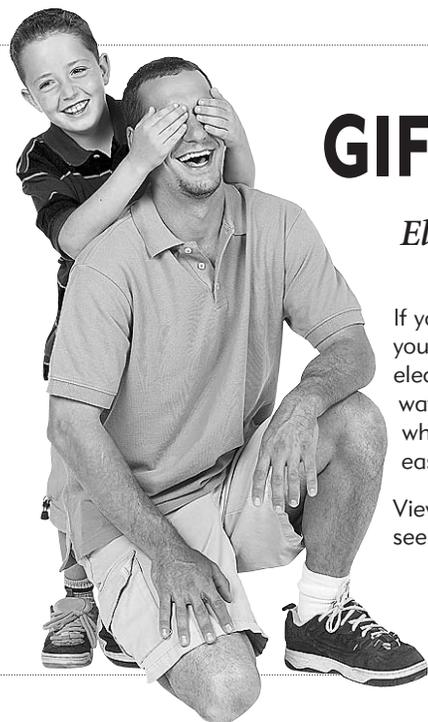
Yield: 6 servings.

GIFT IDEAS FOR DADS

Electric grills and smokers from KEC

If you're looking for the perfect Father's Day gift, your electric co-op can help. Kiwash Electric offers electric cart grills, table top grills and deluxe water smoker/grill combos to members at wholesale prices. Your guy will appreciate the easy operation: Just plug it in and grill!

View the products online at www.kiwash.coop, or see them on display in the Kiwash Electric lobby.



Deluxe Electric Combo Water Smoker and Grill, \$80.00 ▶ (TAXES NOT INCLUDED)

MECO Electric Cart Grill, \$125.00 ▶ (TAXES NOT INCLUDED)

▲ MECO Electric Table Top Grill, \$70.00 (TAXES NOT INCLUDED)

The dog days are on the way

HOW TO STAY COOL AND SAVE

Your air conditioner has to work harder every time the temperature rises one degree. Relieve some strain on you're a/c and knock a few dollars off your energy bill this summer. Here's how:

Change the air filter every time you pay your energy bill. The unit doesn't have to work as hard to push air through a clean filter as it does through a dirty one.

Turn up the thermostat and turn on some fans. Fans circulate the air and help you to feel cooler. For every degree you raise your thermostat, you will save two percent to three percent on air conditioning.

Weatherstripping and caulking around doors and windows isn't just for winter. It keeps hot air from coming into your home during the summer, too.



Draw blinds or shades during the day. If your windows don't have reflective coatings, add window film to keep the sun's heat from seeping in.

Cook or run washing machines, dishwashers and other heat-generating appliances after 9 p.m. Using appliances during these "off-peak" hours helps Kiwash Electric lower its wholesale power costs, and it reduces indoor heat when the sun is blazing.

COMING UP

in Kiwash Country

■ JUNE

- 1 Mid America Youth Basketball Tourney, Elk City and area gyms
- 3 Farmers Market, 4 pm-7 pm Means Park, Weatherford
- 5-8 Route 66 Days, Elk City
- 6-7 Southwest Playhouse presents "Nunsense," Clinton
- 7 Farmers Market, 8 am-12:30 pm, Means Park, Weatherford
- 7 Citywide Garage Sale, Cordell
- 7-8 Route 66 Rodders Car Show Ackley Park, Elk City
- 8-9 Justin McBride Professional Bull Riding Championship, Elk City
- 10 Farmers Market, 4 pm-7 pm Means Park, Weatherford
- 13-14 Heartland Cruise & Car Show Weatherford Radar Park
- 14 Flag Day
- 14 Farmers Market, 8 am-12:30 pm Means Park, Weatherford
- 15 Father's Day
- 17 Farmers Market, 4 pm-7 pm Means Park, Weatherford
- 21 Farmers Market, 8 am-12:30 pm Means Park, Weatherford
- 24 Farmers Market, 4 pm-7 pm Means Park, Weatherford
- 28 Farmers Market, 8 am-12:30 pm Means Park, Weatherford
- 27-28 Route 66 Festival, Clinton 580-225-0207

Send'em to the Zone



If your child is guilty of leaving the lights and television on when no one's around, here's a fun solution: Point youngsters to the Web site www.touchstoneenergysavers.com, and click on the "Kids Zone."



The Kids Zone includes games like "Lights Out," designed to teach kids about the value of using compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs, and turning off lights and appliances. Using fun sounds, graphics and kid-friendly language, the Kids Zone also

teaches children about important topics like renewable energy.

Visit www.touchstoneenergysavers.com for the Kids Zone, and a whole suite of valuable energy saving tools and advice.

SUBMISSION DETAILS:



Kiwash Electric Cooperative promotes local festivals, rodeos, fairs and other events in our monthly newsletter, the *Kilowatt*. Calendar listings are free and it's easy to submit your information.

Please send details to: Lisa Willard, Kiwash Electric, PO Box 100, Cordell, OK 73632, or send e-mail to: lwillard@kiwash.coop. Please send event listings by the 10th of the month prior to publication.



Weather alerts at your fingertips

Kiwash Electric's Co-op Cast brings weather updates, interactive radar, storm alerts and more to your computer desktop—free. When a storm is brewing, or you just want the weekend forecast, simply click on the Co-op Cast icon. For more details on the service, please visit www.kiwash.coop and click on "Co-op Cast," or call us at **888-832-3362**.