

MICHIGAN Country Lines

Venison & Wild Game Recipes



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Blink, Twinkle, Wink

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TO SUBMIT A METER READING:

- 1) Call or use our 24-hour touch tone voice-mail hotline, ext. 207
- 2) E-mail your meter reading at: CEC@cherrylandelectric.com
- 3) Fax your meter reading at: 231-486-9404

PAY STATIONS:

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Cherryland Electric office

HAVE YOU EVER come home at night only to wonder what went on in the neighborhood while you were away?

You know something happened because the microwave clock in the kitchen is blinking, your alarm clock in the bedroom is twinkling, and the VCR in the living room seems to be saying, "Yeah, sure, you bet, I recorded your favorite program (wink, wink)." "What the heck! (or worse)," you exclaim. At some point in your absence, your electricity went off, even though it is a clear day with sunshine and no lightning or storms.

First, you have to understand that Cherryland Electric Cooperative (CEC) has divided its distribution system into sections/circuits on a large scale that is similar to the breaker panel located in your home.

Cherryland literally has hundreds, perhaps thousands, of oil circuit reclosers (OCRs) that are the high voltage equivalent of your simple household breaker. When something causes a disruption on the CEC system, the OCR will briefly shut off the power to your home in hopes the line will then clear and remain energized when the OCR comes back on.

You see this temporary loss of power as a blink. Cherryland sees the OCR as an important device that can prevent long outages caused by very short-term events. Unfortunately, our members are left with the nuisance of resetting their microwaves, alarm clocks and VCRs.

So, why can your lights blink on a clear day? One of the common culprits is small animals. Squirrels and raccoons often climb the pole and onto the transformer to contact an energized wire. While they are "frying," the OCR shuts off the power and the animal drops out of the way.

When the OCR comes back on, the fault is no longer there. The problem has been solved and life continues as normal (for everyone but the animal, that is!). We

do place some protection for the animals at the top of the transformer, but if you have ever watched a squirrel raid your bird feeder, they are persistent and this often leads to their demise and your inconvenience.

Another cause could be a branch that falls from a tree down onto the line. Even if there is only a small breeze, a branch may have been torn loose in the last large wind only to hang there until that seemingly calm, clear day. It will then hit the line to cause

the fault only to burn clear in the resulting arc. The OCR reacts to the fault and depending on the branch size, it may try to re-energize the line up to three times before staying off completely.

The solution for the tree issue is simple line patrol and tree trimming. Cherryland has almost 1,800 miles of overhead line and that means 1,800 miles of tree trimming. In the past, we were on a 10-year cycle but that has been shortened to seven years in order to reduce blinks and outages.

Even if you are on a section of underground line, you are susceptible to blinks. Someone may dig into the line. The ground is constantly shifting below the surface, which may cause the underground wire to stretch apart or rocks to gradually cut into the wire. All the parts and pieces of the underground system may also age and start to fail. Throw in car accidents and routine maintenance by CEC crews, and you get an even wider range of events that can cause a blink, even on an underground line.

What can you do?

If you think your blinks are excessive, start keeping a diary of each blink that includes date, time, temperature and notable weather. Periodically, send in this diary to my attention at CEC and we will investigate further.

Blinks will never be eliminated, but by working together we can reduce the number of 'twinkling' greetings you receive while we always make you happy (wink, wink).



By Tony Anderson
General Manager

Outages Could Happen—Are You Prepared?

OUTAGES CANNOT always be prevented. Storms, high winds, lightning, tree contact, animal contact, and vehicle accidents are among the most common causes of power outages.

Cherryland Electric's crews perform routine maintenance programs year-round to ensure equipment is updated and functioning properly. A continued right-of-way tree-clearing program has eliminated many outages over past years.

But no matter how hard we work at keeping outages to a minimum, the causes of some outages are beyond our control.

Here are some tips for getting through a power outage:

- If the outage lasts more than 45 minutes, turn off heating and cooling appliances until after power has been restored for some time. This helps avoid overload from the high demand that is usually experienced right after power has been restored.

- *Unplug as many appliances as possible.* When a storm involves high winds, lightning, heavy snow or ice, turn off and

unplug as many appliances as possible. This will help prevent damage from a power surge when service is restored. After the storm has passed, plug in and turn them on one at a time.

- In cold months, close drapes, doors and windows to save heat. Isolate a warm

room or fireplace-heated room.

- Most modern refrigerators will maintain adequate cooling for over six hours if doors are not opened.

- Keep flashlights with fresh batteries in a convenient place. Leave one light turned on so you'll know when your power returns.



—Harley Jacques, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric

Plan Ahead for Your Family's Storm Needs

YOU DON'T HAVE TO wait until the weather forecaster predicts a monster storm heading for mid-Michigan to prepare for bad weather and possible outages.

The American Red Cross offers a number of useful tips to help you determine what to do before and during a storm and any related outage:

■ Before the Storm Hits

Assemble essential supplies, including flashlight(s) and batteries, a portable radio, at least 1 gallon of water, and a small supply of food.

If you use a computer, keep files and operating systems backed up regularly. Also, turn off all computers and other devices when they're not being used. That way, if the power goes out, this equipment will already be safely shut down. Get a high quality surge protector for all computer equipment.

If you use the computer a lot, consider purchasing and installing an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) which allows you

to shut the computer down properly.

If you have an electric garage door opener, find out where the manual release lever is located and learn how to operate it. If you use your garage as the primary entrance to your home, be sure to keep a key to your house with you, in case the garage door will not open.

If your telephone requires electricity to work, plan for alternate communication, such as a standard telephone handset or cell phone.

Keep your car fuel tank at least half full because gas stations rely on electricity to power their pumps.

■ Information for People With Disabilities

If you use a battery-operated wheelchair, life-support system, or other power-dependent equipment, it's important to have a backup plan in the event of a power outage.

While most life support equipment does have built-in backup systems, it may not be long enough to cover a major outage. No

one can predict when a power outage might happen. That's why anyone who depends on life support equipment or refrigeration for life-sustaining medications should seriously consider owning a home generator.

With a generator, the equipment will continue operating, and the patient will not have to be relocated to a temporary shelter.

While we work to restore power as quickly as possible to all customers, it is the caregiver's responsibility to have a backup system and plan of action to use in the event of a power outage or other emergency.

■ During An Outage

Turn off or disconnect any appliances, equipment or electronics you were using. When power comes back on, it may come back with momentary "surges" or "spikes" that can damage electronics or motors.

If it's cold outside, put on layers of warm clothing. If the power may be out for a prolonged period, plan to go to another location (relative, friend, or public facility) that has heat to keep warm.

Remember, *Look Up* When Renovating!

WHEN HOMEOWNERS begin to think of renovating the outside of their homes, they sometimes forget to *look up*.

Why is it important to look up?

That's where many overhead power lines are located in residential neighborhoods.

There are too many gruesome statistics about homeowners who built additions without thinking about where their power lines were located.

People get electrocuted when an object they are moving comes in contact with overhead lines.

Keep ladders, antennas, kits and poles away from these lines. Don't plant trees, shrubs or bushes under power lines or near underground power lines.

Never build a swimming pool or other structures under the power line leading to your house. In fact, before digging, learn the location of underground power lines.

Three ways to prevent accidents:

1. Turn off all electrical appliances when you leave the house. Teach children this habit by example.
2. Know your appliances. Read and follow the manufacturers' instructions. Be sure all appliances and power tools carry an Underwriters Laboratory® tag.
3. Practice extension cord safety. Cords are for temporary use. Keep them away from moisture, heat or metal pipes and never use them under rugs.

You wouldn't think that we'd have to warn people about climbing power poles or transmission towers. But every year, people do and people die.

If you have an animal stuck or trapped in a tree or on the roof near electric lines, phone your utility company. Do not take a chance on electrocuting yourself.

Also, be aware of weather conditions when installing and working with electrical appliances.

Why do we bring this up now, with

winter ready to hit?

This is the time of year when people begin to plan home renovations for next spring. So when you start your list, make sure you make safety part of your plan.



Tim Keenan is assistant safety director for Cherryland Electric Co-op

The Time is Now to Change to Electric Source Heating

WITH THE COSTS of fossil fuels soaring, it's definitely time to reconsider electricity as your primary source for home heating. Today, electricity offers not only the highest efficiency ratings, but also the safest and cleanest to operate and maintain.

There are a several different electric source heating options. Today, I want to talk about the most common types:

Geothermal

A) Ground Water Horizontal Closed Loop: A length of pipe is placed in the ground. Your particular heating needs will determine the loop's length, but 100 feet or more is not uncommon. When water is pushed through the pipes, its temperature matches that of the ground, normally around 50 degrees. A heat pump extracts that heat from the water, taking the heat out of the water to approximately 0 degrees. The water is then circulated back through the pipes, warming it again to ground temperature. A compressor

is used to take the heat out of the water and a small pump circulates the water. When air temperatures get down to about 15 degrees these units normally need some backup heat. The newer units out there today are up to 400 percent energy efficient.

B) Ground Water Vertical Closed Loop: Same concept as the horizontal loop, except you will have a number of vertical holes drilled in the ground with pipes running up and down instead of horizontally. This type of system is used where you have limited land space.

C) Ground Water Open Loop: Same geothermal concept but the water is not re-circulated. This method runs off your water pump.

Air-to-Air Heat Pumps

These systems work on the same principle as water source geothermal but take outside air and extract the heat. These units lose some efficiency in very cold weather



Geothermal Heating System

and may require a parallel backup heating unit for those more frigid times.

Electric Resistance Base Board

The traditional electric heat source using baseboard throughout the home and several strategically-placed thermostats.

In the coming months, I will write in more detail on these electric source heat options, including the compatibility of air-conditioning, the up-front and operational costs, and rate incentives offered by Cherryland Electric Cooperative.

—Bill Garey

Cherryland Bulletin Board



Cherryland's Holiday Office Hours

CHERRYLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE will have the following office hours for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's weeks:

- Thanksgiving:** Closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23-24
Re-open Monday, Nov. 27
- Christmas:** Closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25-26
Re-open on Wednesday, Dec. 27
- New Year's:** Closed Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 1-2
Re-open on Wednesday, Jan. 3

Dispose of Your Christmas Tree at Cherryland Office



MEMBERS CAN DROP off their Christmas trees for disposal at the Cherryland Electric Cooperative offices located at 5930 U.S.-31 South in Grawn.

Trees can be dropped off on the right side of Cherryland's property as you are driving in, just beyond where the two parking lots meet. This service is offered free to co-op members.

Friday Folders Help Two Schools

CHERRYLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE has donated "Friday Folders" to two Grand Traverse County elementary schools.

Blair and Interlochen Elementary Schools each received 400 Friday Folders for students in grades K-6. Students use the folders to take their work and assignments home to show their parents and keep them updated on their progress.

Monies for the Friday Folders came from Touchstone Energy, the national marketing arm for electric cooperatives.

Students at Interlochen Elementary Will get Revved Up Nov. 13

THAT'S WHEN GEORGE IRVINE, who owns vintage automobiles, will visit the school and talk about his love for hot rods and collector cars and then read a children's book on automobiles to students in grades K-2.

The idea came from Interlochen principal Sander Scott, a native of Northport, where Irvine is from. Irvine owns The Pump House in Northport.

AMR Meter Update

CHERRYLAND NOW HAS about 9,500 AMR (automatic meter reading) meters installed, according to supervisor Karrie Yanska, who is overseeing the project.

Installations have been completed for regular residential meters for the Bates, Grawn, Thompsonville, Copemish and Garfield substations. The cooperative will be installing AMR equipment in both the Secor and Brethren substations in the coming months so that it can get an early start changing meters in late winter or early spring.

Cherryland has also changed its original four-year AMR plan to a three-year plan.

Radtke Selected as Outstanding Administrator

CHERRYLAND MEMBER Marvin Radtke Jr. has won another state honor.

Radtke was selected for the 2006 Outstanding Community Administrator Award. It was presented to him on Oct. 13 at the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit.

Radtke, formerly the planner for Blair Township, is now the manager for Paradise Township in Kingsley.

The latest award is one of several Radtke has won over the years.

Community Caring

CHERRYLAND'S COMMUNITY CARING Board didn't meet in August and September, but did meet again in mid-October.

The Caring Board gets its money through Operation Roundup, a volunteer program for Cherryland members in which bills are rounded up to the next dollar. The extra money goes in a fund to help needy neighbors in northern Michigan.

**Questions
about the Community
Caring program? Call Brenda
Burrows at 486-9266 or
800-442-8616, Ext. 266.**

STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE CUSTOMERS OF CHERRYLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CASE NO. U-15010

- Cherryland Electric Cooperative plans to implement a power supply cost recovery factor for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2007, if the Michigan Public Service Commission approves their request.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may call or write Cherryland Electric Cooperative's attorney Ms. Christine Mason Soneral, at Dykema Gossett, PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan 48933, (517) 374-9184 for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the application at Dykema's offices or at the respective offices of the cooperatives.
- The first public hearing in this matter will be held:

DATE: December 13, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. This hearing will be a prehearing conference to set future hearing dates and decide other procedural matters.

BEFORE: Administrative Law Judge Mark D. Eyster

LOCATION: Michigan Public Service Commission, 6545 Mercantile Way, Suite 7, Lansing, Michigan

PARTICIPATION: Any interested person may attend and participate. The hearing site is accessible, including handicapped parking. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact the Commission's Executive Secretary at (517) 241-6160 a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing to consider the September 29, 2006 joint application of Cherryland Electric Cooperative, Great Lakes Energy Cooperative, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op and HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative (Cooperatives), for approval of the power supply cost recovery (PSCR) factors below:

Cooperative	PSCR Basing Points (mills/kWh)	Proposed PSCR Factors (mills/kWh)
Cherryland	58.68	12.90
Great Lakes	67.27	4.22
HomeWorks	64.81	9.57
Presque Isle	58.34	16.13

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's Electronic Case Filings Web site at: <https://efile.mpsc.cis.state.mi.us/cgi-bin/efile/login.pl>. Requirements and instructions for filing electronic documents can be found in the Electronic Case Filings Users Manual at: <http://efile.mpsc.cis.state.mi.us/efile/pdfs/usersmanual.pdf>.

An application for account and letter of assurance, required of all first-time users, are located at: <http://efile.mpsc.cis.state.mi.us/efile/pdfs/assurance.pdf>. Documents may also be submitted, in Word format, as an attachment to an e-mail sent to mpscefilecases@michigan.gov. If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at 517-241-6170 or by e-mail at: mpscefilecases@michigan.gov.

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by December 6, 2006. (Residential customers may file petitions to intervene using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon the Cooperatives' attorney, Christine Mason Soneral, at Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan 48933.

Any person wishing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of his/her wish to make a statement of position.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure R 460.17315 and R 460.17335. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 241-6060.

A copy of the Cherryland Electric Cooperative's request may be reviewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://efile.mpsc.cis.state.mi.us/efile> and at the office of Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan, or at the respective offices of the cooperatives. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Commission at the above address or by telephone at (517) 241-6170.

A Utility Consumer Representative Fund has been created for the purpose of aiding the representation of residential utility customers in energy proceedings. Further information may be obtained from the Chairperson, Utility Consumer Participation Board, Department of Labor & Economic Growth, P.O. Box 30004, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 106, as amended, MCL 460.551 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.51 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6h et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, as amended, 1999AC, R 460.17101 et seq.

October 6, 2006

Nick Edson



Time to Salute Our Real Heroes

IT TOOK A TRAGEDY for most of us to realize who the real heroes in our world are.

Five years ago—in the wake of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001—we gained a new appreciation of the work that firefighters, policemen and our military personnel do.

We saluted them. We applauded them. We stood back and watched in awe as they led the fight to help our country recover.

With the passage of time, we sometimes tend to forget those lessons.

The truth is, we can't afford to.

We have to say "thank you" to those whose job it is to protect us. We have to remind them of our appreciation.

That's why Nov. 11, Veterans' Day, will always be special to me. I was raised to observe that day with reverence. Both of my parents—who passed away in the last year—were veterans. My Dad was in the Army and served in the South Pacific during World War II. My Mom was in the Waves and worked at a Naval post office in New York City during the war.

Both of them were changed by their

experiences, they said. My Dad said he could never forget "the smell of death." My mother—an accomplished piano player—was devastated during World War II when she got the news that famous bandleader Glenn Miller's plane had been shot down. He was never heard from again.

There is a reason that my parents' age group was called "The Greatest Generation." The causes they fought for and the way the world changed during their lives was truly remarkable. The other thing I enjoy about The Greatest Generation is their appreciation for the little things in life.

Many of them grew up during the Great Depression. They didn't have anything handed to them. What their families got, they worked for. They learned to say "please" and "thank you." They opened doors for people. They were respectful. I'm not saying that younger generations don't do that, it's just that the Greatest Generation does it better than anyone.

My Baby Boomer Generation features the Vietnam veteran. Two of my best

friends served in Vietnam and the stories they tell about their time there makes me appreciate the sacrifices they made. They are two of my heroes.

Of course, I have friends who are firemen and policemen, too. They save lives and save us from ourselves on a daily basis.

There used to be a time in our history—especially we Baby Boomers—when people in uniform were resented because they represented "The Establishment."

As our generation got older, we began to realize that these people were protectors of our freedom and they weren't to be scorned, but savored.

That's why Veterans' Day is important—it's a salute to real heroes.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Cherryland Electric Cooperative is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Tony Anderson, general manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

Operation Round Up Yields Impressive National Numbers

THROUGH A PROGRAM called Operation Round Up, electric co-op members can make contributions each month to a charitable fund by rounding up their electric bills and donating the difference. The features of this program differ from co-op to co-op, but it has generated some impressive national numbers.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) conducted a survey in late 2004 of Operation Round Up programs at 152 electric cooperatives (of 192 identified as participating in Operation Round Up), which included these findings:

- On average, 72 percent of the funds collected through Operation Round Up

are donated to charitable organizations, while 27 percent go to needy individuals (for example, need due to health or catastrophic events.)

- According to co-ops responding to the survey, they have donated a combined \$41,812,251 to charitable programs or needy individuals since the start of Operation Round Up.

- About \$5.29 million has been donated to individuals, \$3.39 million to public school programs, \$2.97 million to area fire departments, \$1.96 million to student scholarships and education programs, \$1.83 million to youth center programs and activities, and \$1.82 million to health and medical needs.

—NRECA Market Research Services



\$200 REBATE!

FOR CHERRYLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS ONLY.

THE LAST WATER HEATER YOU WILL EVER NEED

Marathon is recognized as the leader in water heaters. Here's why:

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Offer these features:

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- Warranted not to leak, "for as long as you own your home"

Envirofoam Insulation

- The most energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly electric water heater on the market!



Cherryland Electric Cooperative has teamed with **MENARDS** of Traverse City to pass on greater savings to our members!

For more information about the \$200 rebate, call Bill Garey at **231-486-9251** or any member service representative at **1-800-442-8616**.