



**FLINT HILLS RURAL
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

Flint Hills RECA

Board of Trustees

Roger Zimmerman
President

Shawn Potts
Vice President

Korby Effland
Secretary/Treasurer

Dale Andres
Trustee

Cary Granzow
Trustee

Trey Hinkson
Trustee

Terry Olsen
Trustee

James Witt
Trustee

Staff

Chuck Goeckel
General Manager

Member Services

- ▶ Viasat Internet Services
- ▶ Online Payment Options
- ▶ Outside Security Lighting
- ▶ Power Surge Protection
- ▶ Rebate Programs

For more information, call us at 620-767-5144 or visit our website at www.flinthillsrec.com.

**This institution is an equal
opportunity provider
and employer**

FROM THE MANAGER

Annual Meeting Canceled



Chuck Goeckel

While 2020 is finally behind us, 2021 is still giving us issues when it comes to the pandemic. Due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, the board made the difficult decision to cancel the 2021 annual meeting that was scheduled for April 13, 2021. We always look forward to meeting with all our members but with the current restrictions and your safety in mind we decided that it was best to cancel this year's meeting.

We are still conducting our annual elections of trustees using a mail in ballot, which will be sent in March. Included on the ballot is a bylaw proposal that, if approved, will enable the board more flexibility in scheduling the annual

meeting and hopefully eliminate the need to cancel the annual meeting in the future. We will also communicate important information regarding 2020 safety, reliability and financials to you in this issue and the April issues of the *Kansas Country Living* magazine.

Safety

Safety continues to be a top priority for our employees, members and communities. Even though we were unable to take our safety demonstration trailer out to the communities in 2020, we continued to provide electric safety information to our members through the *Kansas Country Living* magazine, our website, and our Facebook page. Employees are trained to look for opportunities to keep our electric distribution system safe for those who live, work, and play in the communities we

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Annual Meeting Canceled

Due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, the decision was made to cancel the 2021 Annual Meeting that was scheduled for April 13, 2021. Please look for your mail-in ballot for board of trustee elections to be delivered in March. We will continue to share information in *Kansas Country Living* magazine and on our website at www.flinthillsrec.com.

Annual Meeting Canceled

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serve. Employee monthly safety meetings and daily job briefings are constant reminders to the employees of the safety sensitive tasks they must perform each day.

Reliability

System reliability is something we continually try to enhance. We utilize total minutes off per meter to analyze how we are doing. The USDA Rural Utility Service reliability guidelines are to be less than 200 minutes per meter per year. We are proud to say in 2020 Flint Hills REC was at 54 minutes per meter per year. This is the lowest year in over 25 years for Flint Hills REC. The state average in 2020 was at 126 minutes per meter per year. It is important to understand that these numbers are used to determine the overall health of Flint Hills REC's electric distribution system and these numbers exclude power supply outages and scheduled outages. There are many factors that contribute to this success such as the efforts of our employees to maintain and update our system, response time to outages, tree trimming and pole inspections, just to name a few.

To help ensure we continue to meet member expectation your input is always welcome. Opportunities to provide input are available through member surveys, emails, Facebook, or direct feedback to the employees, management and board of trustees of your electric cooperative. Your input, ideas and concerns shared with us help shape the future of your electric cooperative.

Mail-In Ballots Due April 2

Cast your vote for board of trustees election

the Flint Hills REC mail-in-ballots were mailed to members on March 9 for the 2021 election of the board of trustees. The new mail-in ballot voting process allows every consumer-member the opportunity to cast their vote by mail. Following is an explanation of how the voting process will work.

Voting

The election of trustees shall be by mail-in ballot. Only those nominees selected by the nominating committee or nominated by petition shall appear on the mail-in ballot. The ballots were mailed to all active members on March 9, 2021. All ballots must be returned to the Flint Hills REC office and in our possession by the April 2, 2021, deadline.

Election Committee

The board selected an election committee, consisting of at least three qualified members of the cooperative. They will be responsible for opening and counting all mail-in ballots. The election committee will follow a confidential counting process during the ballot opening meeting, which will be held on April 8, 2021. The cooperative's legal council will also be present at the counting meeting.

Voting Results

Results of the election will be posted on our website on April 13 and published in the May 2021 *Kansas Country Living* magazine. The Flint Hills REC



The Flint Hills REC mail-in ballots were mailed to members on March 9 for the 2021 election of the board of trustees.

Annual Meeting has been canceled due to the pandemic. Your vote for trustees is important because Flint Hills REC is run by a democratically elected board of trustees. The board is given the privilege to serve because of your vote. The trustees you vote for are a part of your local communities and are committed to providing you, the co-op's consumer-members safe, reliable, and affordable electric service.

For more information on the voting process, please call 620-767-5144 or visit our website, www.flinthillsrec.com, and click on the Member Service tab to view the cooperative's member bylaws. Please remember to cast your vote and return it on time to ensure your cooperative is in good hands for the future.

Three Electrifying Kitchen Appliances to Save Time and Energy

Whether your oven and stove top are powered by gas or electricity, it's no secret that they consume more energy than smaller countertop appliances, like slow cookers and toaster ovens. In addition to efficiency, smaller kitchen appliances can provide faster cooking times and less hassle with cleanup.

If you're looking for convenient cooking methods with the added bonus of energy efficiency, here are three electrifying appliances for your kitchen:

1 AIR FRYERS are becoming increasingly popular, and consumers have a lot of good things to say about these handy little appliances. Air fryers use convection to circulate hot air and cook the food — this means little to no oil is required, resulting in healthier meals than those from traditional fryers. Air fryers are fairly small, so they won't take up much of your counter space, and with everything cooked in the fryer, cleanup will be a breeze. Air fryers are available in a variety of sizes, and prices range from \$40 to \$200-plus.

2 ELECTRIC GRIDDLES have certainly been around for a while, and they offer several benefits for any home chef (beyond



Air fryers circulate hot air (convection) to cook the food. This means little to no oil is required, resulting in healthier meals than those from traditional fryers.



Electric griddles consume small amounts of energy and provide quick cooking times, so your energy bill will thank you.

bacon and eggs!). Griddles are convenient because you can cook everything at once — like a “one-pan” meal, and the possibilities are endless. From fajitas to sandwiches to French toast, griddles can help satisfy any taste buds. They consume small amounts of energy and provide quick cooking times, so your energy bill will thank you. Prices and sizes for griddles vary, but you can typically find one for about \$30 at your local retail stores.

3 PIZZA brings people together, so why not consider a pizza maker for your kitchen? These compact, countertop machines are an inexpensive alternative to a costly brick oven, and they use less energy than your traditional oven. Choose your own fresh ingredients to whip up a faster, healthier pizza at home. Plus, most pizza makers



Pizza makers are compact and inexpensive, and they use less energy than your traditional oven.

are multifunctional and can be used to cook flatbreads, frittatas, quesadillas and more.

You can purchase a pizza maker for about \$30 to \$150 online or at your local retailer.

These are just a few electrifying appliance options for your kitchen.

Remember, when you're cooking a smaller meal, countertop appliances can save time and energy.

TIPS FOR AVOIDING SOLAR SCAMS

As the popularity of rooftop solar panels increases, so do solar scams. Here are a few tips to consider before you install a solar PV system for your home.

- Talk to your electric co-op first. They can offer guidance and recommendations.
- Get at least three quotes from solar companies, and thoroughly read their reviews.
- Avoid solar companies that use high-pressure tactics.
- Don't believe unrealistic promises.
- Only sign clear, easy-to-understand contracts.





ELECTRONICS EFFICIENCY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Did you know there are ways you can reduce your electronics energy use?
Complete the crossword puzzle below to learn about electronics efficiency.

WORD BANK

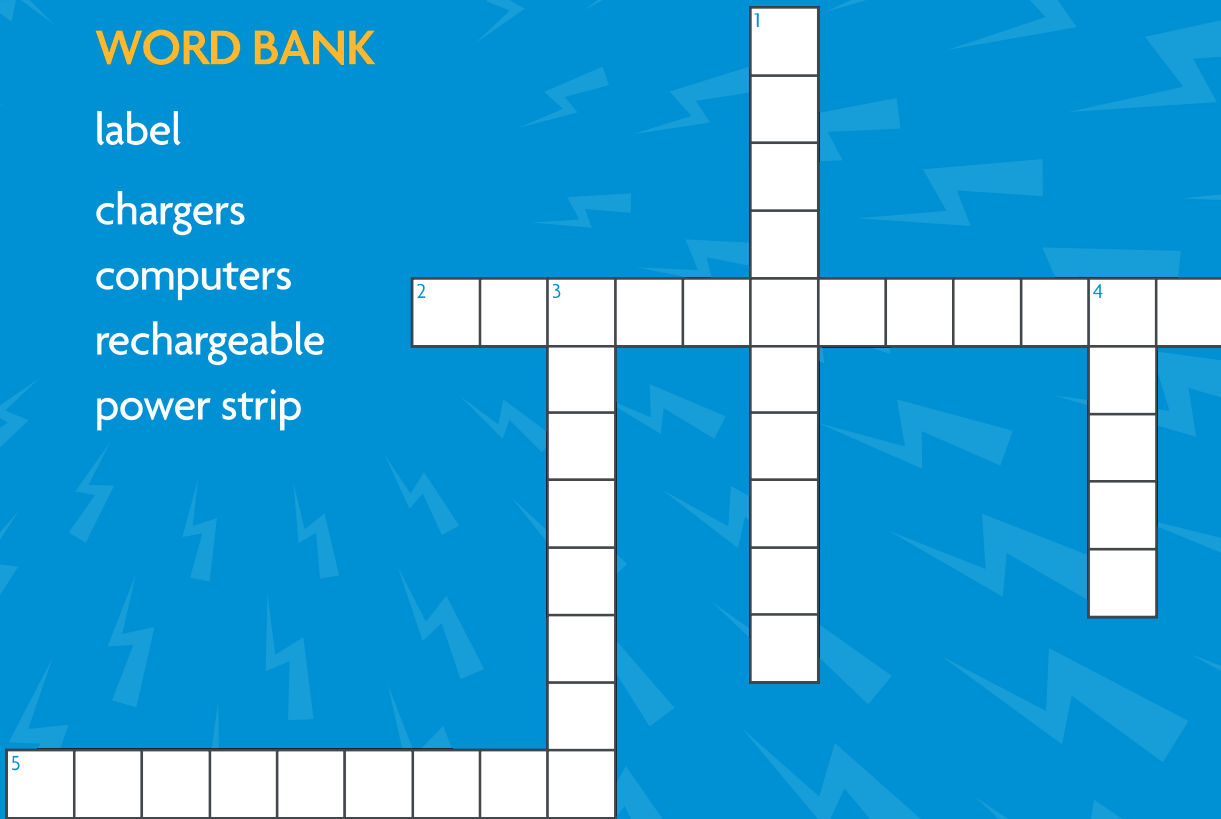
label

chargers

computers

rechargeable

power strip



- 1. **DOWN:** Use a _____ with an on/off switch when powering multiple electronics to easily manage energy use.
- 2. **ACROSS:** For devices that require batteries, use _____ ones, which are more cost-effective and environmentally friendly.
- 3. **DOWN:** Unplug electronic products, like _____, when you're not using them.
- 4. **DOWN:** Electronics that include the ENERGY STAR® _____ are the most energy efficient.
- 5. **ACROSS:** Many _____ come with a sleep mode or power management feature, which can save \$30 on annual energy costs.

ANSWER KEY 1. DOWN: POWER STRIP 2. ACROSS: RECHARGEABLE 3. DOWN: CHARGERS 4. DOWN: LABEL 5. ACROSS: COMPUTERS