

SWIRE generates “green” member-owners

While it is no secret that wind energy is one of today’s top renewable resources, you may be surprised to know that wind energy has been a regular part of SWIRE’s distribution model since 2003.

When it comes to wind energy, Texas leads the country by a landslide with 21,450 wind energy projects. Iowa is second with 6,974 and Oklahoma follows closely as the 3rd largest state for wind production with 6,645 projects.

With Oklahoma and Texas in the top three for U.S. wind production, Southwest Rural Electric is perfectly positioned to utilize this source of renewable energy.

You may have noticed the wind turbines just west of Apache, Oklahoma. These turbines make up the first wind farm in the state of Oklahoma. They are part of Blue Canyon Wind Farm, which generates power for Western Farmer’s Electric Cooperative (WFEC).

WFEC is a generation and transmission cooperative that feeds electricity to 17 distribution cooperatives, including your very own, Southwest Rural Electric Cooperative.

What that means is that you, personally get to enjoy the green benefits of sustainable energy, without ever lifting a finger. SWIRE prides itself on offering this type of green energy to our member-owners.

In fact, nearly 25% of the power generated by WFEC comes from wind energy.

As a receiver of SWIRE electricity, you are not just a customer – you are a member-owner—which means you can take pride in the sustainable energy efforts of your cooperative! That feels good, doesn’t it?

To find out more about wind energy you can visit the WFEC website which includes a virtual tour of the Blue Ridge wind farm.

FAQs

Q: Are wind turbines safe?

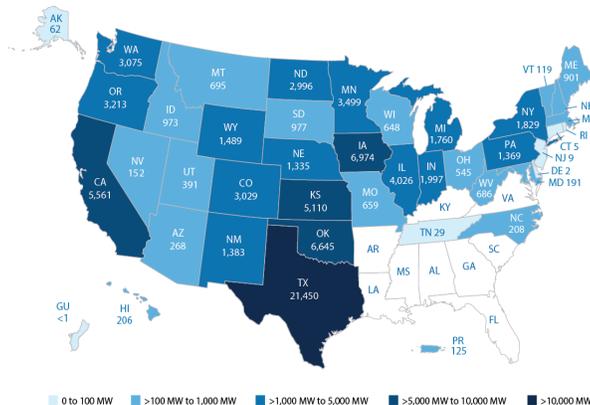
A: Wind energy is one of the safest generating technologies in the world. Some of the many safety features include shutdown at high wind speeds, lightning protection and humidity sensors to prevent ice throws.

Q: Do wind turbines affect wildlife?

A: Local wildlife studies are conducted prior to constructing a wild project in an effort to ensure the project is developed in the most environmentally friendly way possible.

According to this map, provided by the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) shows that Texas leads the country in wind energy projects, followed by Iowa and Oklahoma.

You can learn more about national wind energy projects by visiting www.awea.com.



SWRE Manager's Report

Becoming better through change

Happy New Year!! Welcome to 2018, a new year with a bright new beginning!

I hope you all have been eating your cabbage, pork and Cajun black-eyed peas (see bottom of page 3) because this year we are wishing all of you plenty of good luck and good fortune.

Just as December is a time for gratitude and reflection, January is a time of goal-setting, hope and new inspiration. Today we look forward to all the goals and challenges that lay ahead of us in the new year.

Personally, I am not one to make new year's resolutions. I believe that we should resolve to be better each and every day, not just during the beginning of a new year. That is the approach we will be taking at SWRE. As we move forward, we will constantly strive to be better throughout the entire year.

Let me take a moment to define "better." Better is not staying the same. In order to grow or move forward, changes have to be made. The way things worked 50 years ago isn't exactly how they work today. Similarly, the way things work today, isn't exactly how they will work tomorrow.

One of the greatest minds in history recognized this very concept, and he was better for it. I am referring to the great Albert Einstein, a man who always looked ahead towards new innovations and ideas.

It was actually Einstein's Theory of Light that heavily influenced the discovery of electricity, which is why it is appropriate to quote his theory on change: "The measure of intelligence is the ability to change."

I agree with Einstein in believing that this is the key to successful people and successful businesses. Those who do not change, do not thrive. If Einstein hadn't been open to change and new ideas, we might not have ever discovered electricity and all the wonderful amenities it brings us.

So, as we all jump into the New Year, let us keep Einstein's theory in the front of our minds. It is our ability to change that makes us better. SWRE has new goals for 2018. Our goals help us continue improving our services to our members.

Best wishes in the new year!

Kenneth E. Simmons



Essays Due February 1st

Resolve to Save Energy in 2018

Saving energy—and money—should be on everyone’s resolution list. Here are 5 quick tips to help you get started in 2018.



1. Replace your lightbulbs. Most people have switched from traditional incandescent bulbs by now, but in case you’re still on the fence: An \$8 LED lasts up to 25 times longer and costs only \$30 to operate over that period.

2. Beef up the insulation in your attic. Attics can be sources of heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer. Payback varies by region, but it’s usually within two years, and your home’s comfort will show a difference.

3. Install programmable thermostats. Up to 20 percent of the average home’s yearly energy bill goes toward heating and cooling. Programmable thermostats save money by adjusting the temperature during unoccupied hours.



4. Maintain your HVAC system. Heating and cooling system equipment runs best when maintained. Change your filters on a regular basis and have equipment serviced annually to make sure it’s running efficiently.

5. Unplug. Check around the house to see if devices are unnecessarily plugged in. Cellphones, chargers, TVs, entertainment systems, computers and appliances still draw power when not in use.

Contact Southwest Rural Electric for information about energy audits, efficiency rebates or other programs offered.

24-Hour Dispatching

Emergency Service

1-800-256-7973

Bill Payment Options:

- ✓ SWRE App
- ✓ www.SWRE.com
- ✓ 1-855-980-6821
Automated Line
- ✓ 1-800-256-7973
Tipton Office
- ✓ SWRE Office
*700 North Broadway,
Tipton, OK 73570*

✓ Area Banking Institutions:

- Altus* – Frazer Bank, National Bank of Commerce
- Blair* – Peoples State Bank
- Chillicothe* – American National Bank
- Crowell* – State Bank
- Electra* – Waggoner National Bank
- Frederick* – BancFirst, Frazer Bank
- Snyder* – All American Bank
- Vernon* – Herring Bank, Waggoner Bank, Bank of the West

NOTE: When paying at a bank, allow 10 days prior to the bill’s due date.

What’s Cookin’ in the SWRE Kitchen

Smoky Cajun-Style Black-Eyed Peas



Ingredients:

- 1/2 pound dried black-eyed peas
- 1 tablespoons oil
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 5 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 medium-sized red bell pepper, chopped
- Cajun spice mix (recipe below)
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 – 3 cups vegetable stock
- Freshly-ground pepper, to taste
- 1 bunch (about 175 grams/6 oz) chard leaves or spinach, cut into strips
- 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika or liquid smoke
- 2 green onions, chopped

Directions:

1. Soak black-eyed peas in water overnight. Drain and rinse.
2. Heat oil in a large pot over medium-high heat. Sautee onion, minced garlic and red pepper until soft. Add black-eyed peas, Cajun spices, bay leaf and enough vegetable stock to cover the peas by 1 inch. Season with freshly-ground pepper to taste. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to a simmer. Simmer for about 1 to 1.5 hours or until beans are soft.
3. When beans are done, remove the pot from heat and stir through the chard and smoky paprika or liquid smoke. Cover the pot for a couple minutes to allow the chard to wilt from the remaining heat. Garnish with chopped green onions and serve with cornbread, rice or quinoa.

SWRE News

Kenneth E. Simmons, Manager/CEO
Haley Hoover, **SWRE News** editor

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SWRE *Trading Post*

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ISO: Looking for family hunting lease in Ok or Tx. Approximately 200 acres.
Contact Jim: 580-471-9864

For Sale: Good pool table with balls and pool cues etc. in good shape \$125 or make an offer. A nice roll top desk \$100. also corner desk that has a glass top for the big part of the desk \$50. Also tools and thing in garage. Come look. Make offers. Warren, OK. 580.471.5129

For Sale: Three-Tine round bale spear for tractor; Connects on any tractor with 3-point hitch. Used, but excellent shape. \$150. Located just south of Vernon, Texas. (940)552-0424

For Sale: Angus, polled Hereford yearly bulls for sale.
Contact F.D. at 940-852-5181 or 940-839-5551.

For Sale: Triticale seed for sale. More winter pasture and lasts longer in the spring. Call 940-852-5181 or 940-839-5551.

For Sale: Allis-Chalmers 880 cotton stripper. Early 80's year model. Been barn kept for the last 15 years. Starts, runs, and operates like it should. Has good tires. Contact (940)886-8525.

For Sale: Certified seed wheat. Bentley, SY Flint, & Iba in bulk. OK Seed License 08005320. Call 580-482-4607 or 580-465-0564.

For Sale: 494 acres of productive farmland. Located 2 miles west of Chillicothe on highway 287. Call 940-852-5181 or 940-839-5551.

For Sale: New Estate Sale Items. Vernon, TX.—Dearborn self-start gas heater, Plexi-glass 4-self TV Stand, Green Velour Bench, Light Oak Veneer Entertainment Center with glass door, Glass Top Black End Table, Hoover Wind Tunnel Vacuum Cleaner, other Misc. items—Best Offer prices. 940-552-0424.

For Sale: Small Beagle puppies, vet checked, s/w, \$250,580-301-0253 or 580-480-5692.

For Sale: Triticale seed for sale. More winter pasture and lasts longer in the spring. Call 940-852-5181 or 940-839-5551.

For Sale: PS016510S Spicer transmission. 750 miles since rebuilt. Excellent condition. Phone: 580-480-5452 or land line 580-639-2341.

NOTE: To be included in the print issue of SWRE News, ads should be received by the 10th of the previous month.

FREE classified non-commercial ads available for SWRE members only

MAIL ADS TO HALEY HOOVER AT P.O. BOX 310 TIPTON, OK 73570. E-MAIL THEM TO HALEYHOOVER@SWRE.COM, OR CALL 1-800-256-7973.