

## May Your Holidays Be Happy and Energy-Efficient



**MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER BUDDY BANKHEAD**

**H**oliday decorating can cause spikes in your January electric bill. One great way to keep your light displays from breaking the bank is to invest in light-emitting diodes, or LEDs. LED holiday lights are:

**ENERGY EFFICIENT.** They use 70 percent less energy than traditional incandescent light strings.

**LONG LASTING.** They boast a lifespan of up to 10 times longer than incandescent lightbulbs.

**SAFE.** They stay cool to the touch, reducing the risk of fire.

**STURDY.** Bulbs are made of epoxy, not glass, making them much more durable than other lights.

LED holiday lights come in a wide variety of colors, shapes and lengths and are available at many home improvement, wholesale, drug and grocery stores. Although LEDs might

be more expensive than incandescent lights at the time of purchase, energy savings over their lifetime makes them a big money saver. And prices continue to decrease as the technology becomes less expensive.

The brightness and color of LED lights have also come a long way over the past few years. For white lights, you can choose between cool white (a bright icy blue white) or warm white, (a yellow tint that's the closest LED to a white incandescent bulb).

Make sure the lights you buy are labeled for indoor or outdoor use, depending on where you want to place them. Decorating outside with indoor lights can shorten the life of the bulbs.

For even more energy savings, use a timer to control holiday lights.

When purchasing your holiday lights, make sure the packaging bears the Underwriters Laboratories logo, UL. That means an independent testing group has thoroughly checked the product for safety hazards such as fire and shock.

Careful shopping can save you money on your monthly electric bill while giving your loved ones—and the neighborhood—a festive holiday display.



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## Capital Credits To Be Issued

During December, \$550,000 will be refunded to Rusk County Electric Cooperative members!

Capital credits are money left over after the co-op pays its expenses for the year. In for-profit companies, that money is considered profit, but your co-op operates on a nonprofit basis. Therefore, any money left over, called capital credits or margins, is put into an account in each member's name. At a time when the board of directors determines it's financially prudent to do so, that money is refunded to you based on the amount of business you've done with the co-op.

If your refund is \$7.50 or more, you will be sent a check. If the amount is less than \$7.50, it will be applied to your account.



## Happy Holidays

From Rusk County Electric Cooperative

To allow our employees to enjoy the holidays with their families, our offices will be closed Friday, December 23, Monday, December 26, and Monday, January 2. As always, crews will be on standby in the event of an emergency.

# Merry Christmas from RCEC

*By Ricki Keeling*

It's Christmas, that joyful time of year when, with giving hearts and busy minds, we try to get everything just right for family and friends. When you look at the tree and smell the mouthwatering treats whose aroma fills the house, pause a minute. Try and come up with a few names of those less fortunate and share with them some of your Christmas blessings.

We all know someone just down the road with whom we could share a little time, gifts or some of those special Christmas goodies. We live in a fast-paced world and often forget about the elderly and needy around us. Although it may have a few troubles and always will, we live in a great nation that was handed to us by previous generations. So, top off your best Christmas ever with the ultimate pleasure of doing for others. Whether it's material, spiritual or personal, that's what Christmas is all about: the gift of love and caring.



Texas Co-op Power Food Editor Kevin Hargis, left, and RCEC Manager of Member Services Ricki Keeling, right, present Jean Bunyard with a \$500 check.

## RCEC Member Wins \$500

Rusk County Electric Cooperative member Jean Bunyard was named runner-up in the Sweet Category of the 2011 Texas Co-op Power Holiday Recipe Contest sponsored by the Texas Pecan Board. She received a check for \$500 for her recipe for Fig Pecan Pie. Bunyard, who works part-time as an insurance office manager, lives in Carthage with her husband, Guy, and stays busy with volunteer work and helping take care of four grandchildren.

### Six Decades of Texas' Favorite Foods, Fads & Facts

*Full Color, Hardbound, More Than 600 Recipes From 60 Years of Texas Co-op Power*



Available at Rusk County EC. Come by and purchase your copy today!

### ATTENTION, STUDENTS!

**TEXAS CO-OP POWER**

**CO-OP TEENS POWER TEXAS**

**One 30-second TV ad can win you \$1500!**



**STUDENTS, GRADES 6-12:** Make your own TV ad for your co-op and post it on YouTube. You could win a cash prize!

**TEACHERS:** You could win \$1000 for your school by sponsoring the grand prizewinner.

For full details, go to [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com)