



iNtouch

WITH MEMBERS OF FRANKLIN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

NEWMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT TO RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIP



Electric power suppliers to Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative have selected Sarah Martin, Rockwell, as the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship. Franklin REC also awarded her a \$250 scholarship for being selected on the local level.

Corn Belt Power Cooperative, Humboldt, power supplier to Franklin REC, along with Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bismarck, N.D., awarded the scholarship to Martin, whose parents are members of Franklin REC.

A senior at Newman High School, Mason City, Martin has participated in band, basketball, cross country and speech. She has been part of numerous mission groups, traveling to Appalachia, Jamaica, inner city Chicago, Kenya and Mexico City. Martin is one of 30 leaders under 40 years of age recognized by the Mason City Community for community service. In addition, she received the Top Newman Volunteer Community Service Award three years in a row. Martin plans to attend college and receive her bachelor of science in

nursing. She hopes to become a nurse practitioner and serve in third world countries.

Martin is the daughter of Paul and Diane Martin, who have been members of Franklin REC since 1994. Her winning essay is reprinted below, addressing how local cooperatives serve rural areas and how they differ in comparison to other local businesses:

I am impressed with local cooperative's commitment to the values of accountability, integrity, innovation and community involvement. Local cooperatives serve rural areas by providing customers with reliable and affordable utility service. Cooperatives are service oriented because they are member-owned. Money is returned to the members through the community with education, housing and development activities. Local cooperatives play a major role in providing affordable utility services in rural areas. The availability of utilities to rural areas has improved greatly over the years and has improved the quality of life. Cooperatives make sure their members are satisfied and can enjoy comforts in life that not too long ago were unavailable.

These comforts are easily taken for granted. After an ice storm in February 2007, I realized how dependent I am on the electricity the local rural cooperative provides



to my house. I appreciated and was impressed by different cooperatives working together to help in a time of need with restoring power to rural areas very quickly. The dedication to service had the rural electric cooperative's employees working in harsh weather and conditions that most people would refuse to work in. This is a testimony to the dedication of cooperatives to provide service for their members. To help decrease the cost, cooperatives buy in large quantities to distribute between their members at cheaper rates. They pool their resources together to meet the needs of their members and thereby, save money.

The main goal of other businesses is to make a profit. The reduction in their cost does not always reduce prices but often is to increase their own profit. Because there is not as much profit available in rural areas, many businesses do not provide

service to these areas. In rural areas, there are fewer customers per mile and the profit potential in rural areas isn't as great.

Cooperatives promote economic development by attracting businesses, which in turn create jobs for rural areas. By promoting energy efficiency, cooperatives help consumers spend less and preserve our natural resources for the future. I appreciate and thank rural cooperatives for their values of commitment, service, and integrity to provide electric service to members in rural areas.

Thank you!

You may have noticed the Franklin REC linemen or trucks in your area, trimming trees, in the last few months. We appreciate your patience and cooperation during this process.



NOLTE TO ATTEND REC YOUTH TOUR

Cassie Nolte will represent



Franklin REC on the Iowa Rural Electric Youth Tour to Wash-

ington, D.C., this June. She attends Hampton-Dumont High School.

More than 1,400 high school students from across the country participate in the Youth Tour held each year. Students spend a week in Washington, D.C. gaining first-hand experience in politics, community development and today's social issues.

Cassie's parents, Michael and Carol, have been members of Franklin REC since 1985.



REC Lineman Completes Training

Adam Bird, First Class Lineman with Franklin REC, has successfully completed one of the most comprehensive training programs in the world for power line personnel. Congratulations to Adam, who can look forward to a very rewarding life-long occupation.

Right: Paul Schulz (far right) speaks with contractors at the Momentum is Building conference. The conference, sponsored by Iowa's Electric Cooperatives, was held in Des Moines in February. The annual conference is an opportunity to network with contractors, see the latest building products and technologies in the industry and hear insight from experts within the industry.



Home Energy Audits Offered

Franklin REC is pleased to offer free home energy audits, administered by Member Services Director Paul Schulz. During a walk-through audit, Paul will advise members about various ways to save energy in their homes, including reducing air infiltration, using less hot water, limiting "phantom loads" from chargers and electronics, adding insulation and changing to more efficient lighting.

Each member who takes advantage of this service will receive a free Energy Efficiency Kit that includes a CFL bulb, outlet covers, a low-flow shower head and much more!

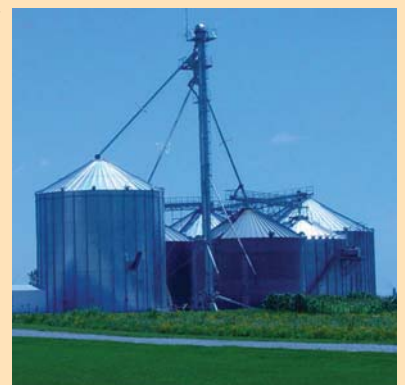


Planning a new grain bin?

If you are considering building or expanding your grain storage in 2008, please contact Franklin REC as part of your plans. We need to know the size of the motors you may install and if they are single-phase or three-phase. The REC should be included on several other important decisions, too, before you purchase equipment or begin construction. These decisions involve planning for overhead or underground wiring and locating the grain bin(s) the proper distance away from overhead power lines.

To ensure safety as well as wise resource investment, use this checklist as a guide and allow for enough lead-time to properly design the entire construction.

- Is a licensed electrician installing the system?
- Are all wires, fuses and circuit breakers of the proper size and type?
- Are all outlets, switches and other devices surface-mounted for easy inspection and maintenance?
- Do all motors have disconnects located within sight of the motor?
- Do motors have correctly sized over-current protection and are they rated for farm duty?
- Are lights enclosed by globes or guards?



Grain bins must be located proper distances away from power lines.

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