

# POWER LINE

OCTOBER 2021



Redwood Electric Cooperative



## GOT BILLS **HANGING** OVER YOUR HEAD?

### Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program helps pay energy bills

More Minnesota households than ever before are eligible. You may also qualify for the Weatherization Assistance Program for free home improvements to permanently reduce your energy bills.

#### HELP FOR RENTERS AND HOMEOWNERS:

- Up to \$1,600 to pay your energy bills
- Free repair or replacement of homeowner's broken furnace
- Free energy efficiency home upgrades to lower your bills

#### ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

Household size	Annual income
1	\$33,918
2	\$44,355
3	\$54,791
4	\$65,228

#### LEARN MORE

1-800-657-3710  
[mn.gov/commerce/eap.jsp](https://mn.gov/commerce/eap.jsp)

or search "Minnesota Energy Assistance"  
in your internet browser



OUR OFFICE WILL BE  
CLOSED NOVEMBER  
11TH



★ **THANK YOU** ★  
**VETERANS**

OUR OFFICE WILL BE  
CLOSED NOVEMBER  
25TH & 26TH



# Cold Weather Rule & Energy Assistance Program Notice

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule (216B.096), electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between Oct. 1 and April 30 if electric is the primary heat source and ALL of the following statements apply:

- Your household income is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by Redwood Electric or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from Redwood Electric Cooperative.

## **Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not completely stop winter disconnects**

Before disconnecting electric service to residential members between Oct. 1 and April 30, Redwood Electric Cooperative must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 60% of the state median income (\$65,964 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2022.

To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance.

### **United Community Action**

Willmar Office: 320-235-0850

Marshall Office: 507-537-1416

Redwood Falls Office: 507-637-2187

Toll Free Number: 800-658-2448

### **Salvation Army**

507-326-5017 or 507-637-2187

### **Heat Share**

Statewide Office: 822-842-7279

Redwood & Renville County: 888-220-4860

Brown County: 888-999-1568

Lyon County: 507-537-6747

### **Southwest Health and Human Services: 507-637-4050**

### **MAC-V: Veterans Assistance**

Southern Region: 833-222-6228

Redwood County Rep: 507-637-4034

Redwood Electric exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for the EAP, please contact our office to set up a payment agreement.



# Crockpot Pumpkin Dump Cake

## Ingredients

- 1 15 oz. can pumpkin puree (NOT pumpkin pie filling)
- 1 12 oz. can evaporated milk
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup granulated white sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated brown sugar
- 2 tsp pumpkin pie spice
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter melted
- 1 15.25 oz. box yellow cake mix
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans optional



## Instructions

1. Spray the inside of your crockpot (mine is 6 quarts) with cooking spray. In a medium sized bowl, combine the pumpkin puree, evaporated milk, eggs, white sugar, brown sugar, pumpkin pie spice, cinnamon, and vanilla extract. Mix well and pour into the bottom of the prepared crockpot.
2. Mix the melted butter and the cake mix together in a bowl until crumbly and doughy, then sprinkle evenly over the top of the pumpkin mixture. Sprinkle the chopped pecans over the top.
3. Place lid on the crockpot and cook over high heat for 2 hours, or on low heat for 4 hours. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream on top. Enjoy!

## ELECTRIC HEATING SALES TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the main source of heat for my home (more than 50 percent) is furnished by permanently installed electric heating equipment (not portable) and I, therefore, am eligible for the electric heating sales tax exemption as provided by Minnesota State Tax Fact Sheet 157. This exemption is for the billing months of November through April only. *Please notify us if you change from electric heat to a different primary heating source.* If you qualify for Electric Heat Sales Tax Exemption, please fill out this form and mail it to our office.

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Location # \_\_\_\_\_ Meter # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete and return to:**

Redwood Electric Cooperative  
60 Pine Street  
Clements, MN 56224



### Make Time for Safety This Harvest Season

Harvest season often means putting in long hours, which can make it difficult to stay alert and on the lookout for potential hazards. Safe Electricity provides safety tips to help farmers make this harvest season a safe one.

Richard McCracken, Safe Electricity Advisory Board member, advises, "Safety starts with preparation. Be prepared for potential emergencies before the rush of harvest season begins. Have a safety plan, and make sure that farm workers and family members are aware of the procedures in it."

Be sure that you can see well in the areas where you are working. Consider adding extra lighting around grain bins and augers.

Take the time to look up and look out for electrical lines. Always be aware of where they are in relation to your equipment. Keep a minimum of 10 feet away from all electrical equipment, and lower extensions before moving equipment. If you see a power line that is sagging or low, contact your utility. Also keep an eye out for guy wires. Although these wires are not energized, they can bring down live lines.

In equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on steering, which may lead some drivers to think that they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. However, even while using a GPS with auto-steering, farm workers need to keep safety in mind and stay focused on their surroundings.

"Slow down, always stay alert, and take all recommended precautions. To help you do so, recognize when you need to take breaks so that you can be active and engaged in the farm work," says McCracken.

Additional electrical safety tips include:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Look up and use care when moving any equipment such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.

If the machinery you are operating does make contact with a power line, stay on the equipment. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

Only on the rare occasion that the machinery catches fire should you leave the vehicle after contact is made. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area. Never touch anything that is in contact with a power line.

"Remember, while harvest is a busy season on the farm, it's still important to take the time to keep safety first and look out for and stay safely away from potential hazards like overhead power lines," adds McCracken.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## Office Hours & Contact Information

Monday-Friday 7:00 AM-3:30 PM

Phone: 888-251-5100 or 507-692-2214

Email address: [office@redwoodelectric.com](mailto:office@redwoodelectric.com)

Web: [www.redwoodelectric.com](http://www.redwoodelectric.com)

SmartHub: [redwoodelectric.smarthub.coop](http://redwoodelectric.smarthub.coop)

Pay By Phone: 844-846-2696

**OUTAGES**  
**(888) 251-5100**  
**24 HOURS A DAY**

**\*CALL BEFORE YOU DIG\***  
**Gopher State One**  
Call (800) 252-1166

## General Manager

Ronald Horman

## Board of Directors

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Emily Evans

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## STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

*Redwood Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.* If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to:

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).