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**Mission Statement**

*To safely provide our member-owners with adequate and reliable electric service, superior customer service and innovative energy solutions, all at reasonable prices.*

**Facility Charge**  **Service Availability**



Marcia Scott  
 Manager

We are changing the name of the first line item on your bill from Facility Charge to Service Availability. The dollar amount of the charge will remain the same - only the name of the charge has changed.

Why are we making this change to your bill? We believe the name, Service Availability, provides a better description of the costs that this charge is meant to recover. This charge covers a portion of the costs to make electric service "available" to you.

What is the Service Availability charge (formerly called Facility Charge)? It is a flat fee that recovers a portion of the cost of making electric energy available to our members. This charge is designed to pay for the poles, wires, transformers and equipment that it takes to make electric service "available" to

you. It also supports fleet, facility and customer service functions, such as line maintenance, outage restoration, right-of-way clearing and general administrative responsibilities.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative members use electric service in different ways. Most of our members consistently use electricity all year long, while some member locations may use electricity only one or two months out of the year. Whether you use your electricity every day or only occasionally, the cost of having power available remains the same.

The amount of electricity our members use also varies greatly. If one member uses only one kWh of electricity per month and another member uses 1,000 kWh, the cost of having power available remains the same to both customers. It takes nearly as much equipment to deliver one kWh as it does to deliver 1,000 kWh. That is why the monthly Service Availability charge is important to recover a portion of the cost of deliv-

### *Service Availability continued*

ering electricity to all members. How you use the available electricity is what determines your final monthly bill.

It is important to keep in mind the fact that cooperatives typically serve only a few customers for each mile of line owned. Tri-County Electric services 4.5 customers per mile of line. This



means our actual cost of making service available in our territory is higher than the costs of investor-owned utilities which often have over 40 customers per mile of line.

In summary, the first line item on your bill will be changed from Facility Charge to Service Availability. The dollar amount of the charge remains the same - only the name has changed.

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## Quick and Easy Pizza Crust

### Ingredients

- 1 (.25 ounce) package active dry yeast
- 1 tsp. white sugar
- 1 cup warm water (approximately 110 degrees F)
- 2.5 cups bread flour
- 2 Tbs. olive oil
- 1 tsp. salt

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees F. In a medium bowl, dissolve yeast and sugar in warm water. Let stand until creamy, about 10 minutes.

2. Stir in flour, salt and oil. Beat until smooth. Let rest for 5 minutes.

3. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and pat or roll until round. Transfer crust



High school students\* have a great opportunity to win a **FREE**, well-chaperoned, educational **trip to Washington, D.C.** Three students will be selected to attend the Youth to Washington program June 10 through June 17 of this year. Requirements to earn the trip are very simple. A test, consisting of true-false and multiple choice questions on material contained in a rural electrification booklet, will be administered at local high schools. The study booklets will be available at the cooperative or any of the area high schools by February 1, 2016.

Testing will be held at each participating high school, or special arrangements can be made for a home-schooled student.

*\*Qualifications: Student must be a high school Sophomore, Junior or Senior. Student must reside in a home served by Tri-County. Students previously participating in the tour are not eligible.*

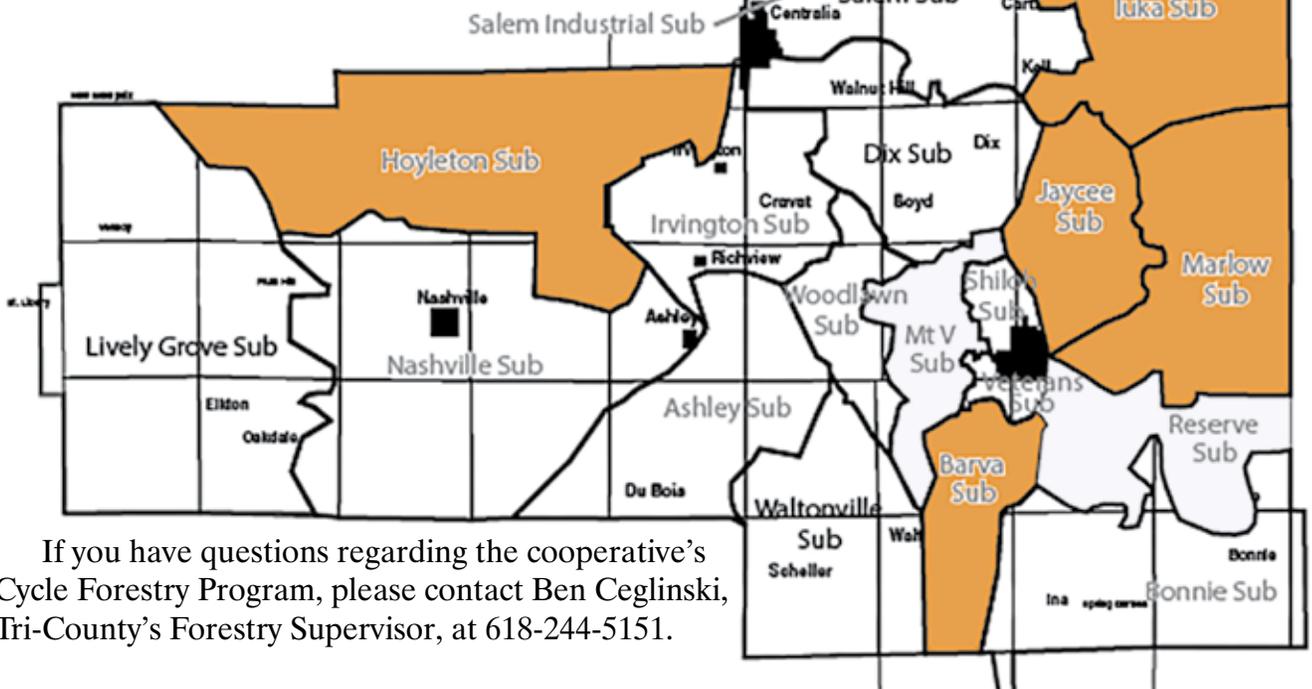
to a lightly greased pizza pan or baker's peel dusted with cornmeal. Spread with desired toppings and bake in preheated oven for 15 to 20 minutes, or until golden brown. Let baked pizza cool for 5 minutes before serving.



# 2016 Forestry Cycle

Tri-County Electric Cooperative has received bids for the 2016 Forestry Cycle. The successful bidder for the cycle is Asplundh. Substation areas included in the program are: Jaycee, Marlow, Iuka, Hoyleton and Barva.

The Forestry Program is a cycle program developed to trim, remove trees, mow brush and apply herbicides to each substation coverage area in a four-year cycle. This program was developed to reduce storm damage, blinks and maintenance cost.



If you have questions regarding the cooperative's Cycle Forestry Program, please contact Ben Ceglinski, Tri-County's Forestry Supervisor, at 618-244-5151.



## FACT

As many as 24,000 children are treated in the ER every year for injuries caused by tampering with electric outlets & plugs.



**Prevent deadly accidents! Install TROs & GFCIs in your home today!**

- Tamper Resistant Outlets (TRO) prevent foreign objects from making contact with live wires.
- The most common objects stuck in outlets are hairpins, keys and fingers.
- Install TROs in homes with children.
- GFCI stands for Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter and can help prevent electrical shocks.
- Install GFCIs where water and electricity are present, like bathrooms, kitchens, laundry rooms, garages and outdoors.



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives  
The power of human connections®

## Classroom Empowerment Grants

Winners of Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants for schools in Tri-County Electric Cooperative's service area have been announced. The grants fund innovative, unfunded projects or materials in area schools.

### 2015 Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant Winners

Teacher	School
Katie Baumhoegger	Dr. Nick Osborne Primary Center
Joseph C Kirby	Immanuel Lutheran School
Erica Capps	Grand Prairie CCSD #6
Christy Sweet	Okawville Grade School
Michael S. Waller	Hawthorn School
Renee Pelaz	Field Community Consolidated School
Paul Welte	Nashville Community High School
John T. Kabat	Mount Vernon Township High School

## Patronage Credit - Estates

The Tri-County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors approved a policy allowing early payment of patronage credits to a deceased member's estate.

The early payment option is available for estates of members who passed away after December 31, 2014 and paid as a discounted lump sum. The process would start upon written request of the heirs, beneficiaries or legal representative of the deceased member's estate. The written request for early payment of patronage credits must contain enough information to allow the Cooperative to make the determination that the representative is legally entitled to the deceased member's patronage.

Requests for early retirements will be considered in the order in which they are received by the Cooperative, and the early retirement of patronage credits to estates will be capped at \$100,000 per year. The policy does not apply to corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, cooperatives, limited liability partnerships or other legal entities.

Complete details on this policy can be obtained by contacting the Cooperative.



### Get the Smart Hub App Now!

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-  Pay Bills
-  Get Daily Usage Info
-  Manage Your Account
-  Improve Energy Efficiency