

# PEC gives thanks

As families across the country gather together to give thanks this holiday season, we at Pickwick Electric Cooperative are also counting our blessings. And we have much to give thanks for.

We all can be thankful for this beautiful corner of Tennessee we call home and for the friendly, caring neighbors who make up the membership of PEC.

Our membership is blessed to be served by well-trained and courteous employees who strive each day to deliver safe, reliable, affordable electricity to more than 20,000 homes and businesses across our service area.

We are thankful that we live in a country blessed with the resources that make it possible to deliver electricity in this manner and for the technology that allows us to do our jobs more efficiently in providing better service to our customers. Much of the world does not have this option.

As we look back at the past year, we are proud of the safety record of our employees. Safety is our No. 1 priority every work day. We want to make sure

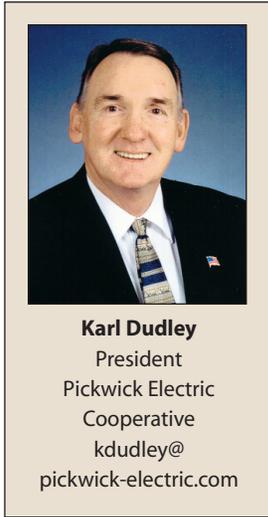
that every employee goes home safe and sound to their loved ones every night.

We are thankful for our many partners. By working together in cooperation, we can all more effectively reach our goals.

These partners include the elected officials and community leaders of the cities and counties of our service area who work with us on economic development projects and the school personnel who work with us on our youth programs. And finally, we are thankful for our partners at other organizations such as the Cooperative

Response Center, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and the Cooperative Finance Corporation. They help us to meet our goals of becoming a state and national leader in providing safe, reliable electric service to our customers at an affordable price and with exceptional customer service.

Thank you for your continued support of PEC. May God bless you and your family this holiday season.



## Pickwick Electric Cooperative

Serving members in all of McNairy County and portions of Chester, Hardeman and Hardin counties in Tennessee and Alcorn and Tishomingo counties in Mississippi



530 Mulberry Ave.

P.O. Box 49

Selmer, TN 38375

Phone Numbers:

(731) 645-3411

(731) 632-3333

1-800-372-8258

Web site:

[www.pickwick-electric.com](http://www.pickwick-electric.com)

These five pages contain local

news and information

for members of Pickwick

Electric Cooperative.

## Happy Thanksgiving

The PEC office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22 and 23, for the Thanksgiving holidays. Should you have an emergency, we will have standby crews available.



# Gobble your turkey safely this season

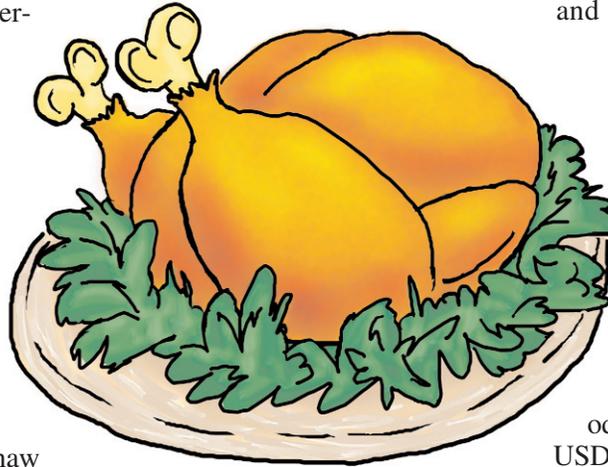
**D**on't let poor handling and preparation ruin your turkey dinner. By following a few simple tips, your family will be healthy and stuffed this Thanksgiving season.

## Fresh turkeys

- Allow one pound of turkey per person.
- Buy turkey only one to two days before cooking it.
- Keep turkey stored in the refrigerator until ready to cook. Place on a tray or in a pan to catch any juices that may leak.
- Do not buy fresh, prestuffed turkeys. If not handled properly, any harmful bacteria that may be in the stuffing can multiply quickly.

## Frozen turkeys

- Allow one pound of turkey per person.
- Keep frozen until ready to thaw and cook.
- Turkeys can be frozen indefinitely, but for best quality, cook within one year.



## Frozen prestuffed turkeys

If you want a prestuffed turkey, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recommends buying only frozen, prestuffed turkeys that display the USDA or state mark of inspection on the packaging. These turkeys are safe because they have been processed under controlled conditions. **DO NOT THAW** before cooking; cook from the frozen state. Follow package directions for proper handling and cooking.

## Reminders

- Be sure to remove giblets from turkey cavity after thawing and cook them separately.
  - Using soap and water, always wash hands, utensils, the sink and anything else that comes in contact with raw turkey and its juices.

For information on other methods for cooking a turkey, call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854) or TTY at 1-800-256-7072. You can also visit the Web site at [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov).

# Involve the family in Thanksgiving preparation

**N**ational Family Week is the same week as Thanksgiving — so you have two good reasons to let your kids help prepare the Turkey Day feast.

Of course, you'll have to keep your youngsters away from the hot stove and sharp knives. Still, there are lots of fun, safe ways to get everyone involved:

- Very young children can take the crusts off of bread for the stuffing. They can also snap the ends off of the green beans.
- Children ages 3 to 5 can help pour in ingredients, and they can help stir or whisk. Have them stand at the kitchen sink to wash vegetables, or let them use a hand-masher to make the mashed potatoes.
- Older children can follow directions for a recipe and use cooking utensils with supervision. Let them cut, chop and peel vegetables. These older kids also are strong enough to knead dough, so let them shape and divide the rolls or biscuits.
- Cooking can be a great way to get kids interested in science, math and physics as well as the history of the holiday. Talk about the food you're making, the measurements of the ingredients and the steps involved in getting food from the farm to the table.



# A salute to PEC veterans

Veterans Day is set aside to honor members of all branches of the United States armed forces for sacrifices made during times of war and peace.

November 11 was first proclaimed a holiday in 1919 as Armistice Day. It was so named for the signing of the armistice that brought an end to World War I.

In 1954, the name was changed from Armistice Day to Veterans Day in memory of those who took part in World War I, World War II, the Korean War and wars and conflicts that might follow.

Prior to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York and on the Pentagon in Arlington, Va., many people in the United States took their freedom for granted. Most of us had forgotten about the lives that were given throughout history to guarantee us this freedom.

Today, more than ever, we need to remember those who have made sacrifices in the past, but as we do so, let us not forget those who are serving today.

Pictured are the active employees and directors who served in the armed forces. Our retired employees who served are Jerry Burks, Larry Gage, Robert Goad, Joe Gortney, Leslie Gwin, Vernon Jenkins, John Mitchell, Clayton Ott, Glen Plunk, Douglas Raines, Edward Shelby, Joe Thomas, Jackie Weaver, Bobby Whitley, Marvin Wilkes and Robert Williams.

In this issue, we at PEC honor our veterans and all veterans who have served. It's men and women such as these who have kept our great nation strong and free.



**Bobby Barnes**



**Jimmy Dickey**



**Jimmy Dickey, director**



**Clyde Garrison**



**Harold Finley, director**



**Jamie McAfee, director**



**Terry Abernathy,  
attorney**



**Maynard Smith**



**Layne Moffett**



**Terry Pearson**



Celebrate Veterans Day this year by remembering those who have served our country and those who are serving today.

**Nov. 11 • Veterans Day**



## Manufactured homes built to *energy right*<sup>®</sup> standards help avoid energy problems

Each year, many Pickwick Electric Cooperative members buy manufactured homes, typically because the mortgage payments are less than a site-built home. But when the electric bill comes, especially in the winter, they may find themselves losing the budget war.

Most manufactured homes come with electric resistance heat (electric furnace), which is an expensive way to heat your home. In some cases, during the heating season, the electric bill is as much or exceeds the monthly house payment.

If your manufactured home is hurting your wallet, there are some things that you can do to trim your energy use and your electric bills.

- Replace your electric furnace with an energy-efficient heat pump, which will save you 40 percent to 50 percent on your electric bills. Qualified homeowners who want to switch to a heat pump can receive financing through PEC and have the monthly payments added to their electric bills.
- If possible, add more insulation. This will cut your electric bills.
- Install storm windows or tape a sheet of clear plastic on the inside of your windows.
- Install storm doors, making sure to keep the doors closed when heating and cooling.
- Install drapes or window blinds and close them every night

to help keep the heat inside.

- Weatherstrip and caulk around windows and doors. This keeps out drafts and makes it harder for heat to leak out of the home.
- Make sure the manufactured home is underpinned. This keeps the cold air out and will help keep pipes from freezing.
- Wrap your electric water heater with an insulated blanket made especially for this purpose. It will make your electric water heater work more efficiently.
- Check your duct system to assure there are no air leaks.
- If you are buying a manufactured home for the first time, we suggest that you look for one that is built to the *energy right*<sup>®</sup> specifications. That means the home comes with a high-efficiency heat pump, thermal-pane windows, R-11 to R-19 insulation in the walls, R-22 insulation in the floors and R-30 insulation in the ceiling. In addition, a vapor barrier is placed on the ground under the home.



## What to do if you experience a power outage

Power outages don't happen often and usually don't last long. But if one does happen, do you know what to do?

Stay away from downed power lines and broken utility poles. Please note the location and call Pickwick Electric Cooperative immediately. Even lines that look harmless can be dangerous.

If your power is out, check with your neighbors. If they still have electricity, check your fuses or circuit breakers. If that doesn't solve the problem, give us a call.

Once you've called us, there's no need to keep calling; your request will be handled as soon as possible. However, if your power is still out once your neighbors' have been returned to service, you should call again.

When service is restored, overloaded lines could cause another outage. You can help prevent this by switching off your heating and cooling equipment and other appliances during the outage. Leave a light on so you'll know when service is back on.

Don't keep checking the refrigerator and freezer. Food will keep much longer if the doors are left closed.

Prepare a "lights out" kit: keep a flashlight, spare fuses and battery-powered radio handy. Know where the electric service panel for your home is located and how to reset circuit breakers or replace blown fuses. Make sure your family knows where the kit is and what to do if you are not at home.



# PEC's 72nd Annual Meeting

Approximately 650 members and friends celebrated Pickwick Electric Cooperative's 72nd Annual Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2007. Entertainment was provided by the Adamsville High School Choir and Renewed Gospel Ministries Quartet. The crowd also enjoyed hot dogs and soft drinks, and some nice door prizes were awarded.

At the annual meeting, PEC honored one of its longtime members, Derucie Henry. As a token of our appreciation for his dedication and service on the Credentials and Election Committee, he was presented a meter lamp by attorney Terry Abernathy.



Derucie Henry, left, is presented a meter lamp by PEC attorney Terry Abernathy.



The younger age group enjoys the party jumpers.



PEC members are entertained by the Adamsville High School Choir.



Dorthena Estes, left, and Fairy Hunter receive travel mugs as they register at the annual meeting.