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Butler REC **NEWS**

FROM THE MANAGER

October is Co-op Month



R. Dale Short

Throughout
October
, Butler REC
will be
celebrating
and we
invite
you to
celebrate
with us.

October is one of my favorite times of year, for me it means cooler evenings, football, fall harvest, and National Co-op Month. At Butler REC we like to take the month of October to celebrate the fact that we are a co-op.

Historically, co-ops were formed when the marketplace failed to provide the goods or services needed at affordable prices and acceptable quality.

Today, co-ops offer a better business model that have social as well as economic goals, distribute capital more equitably, and are governed more democratically.

Co-ops allow people to improve their quality of life and enhance their economic opportunities. Throughout the world, co-ops provide financial services, consumer goods, housing, and other services that would otherwise be unavailable, cost them more, or lack democratic involvement.

Did You Know?

- ▶ There are more than 21,000 U.S. co-ops in a wide variety of industries, according to the best current estimate.
- ▶ Co-ops have approximately 130 million members, more than a third of all Americans.
- ▶ Co-ops employ more than 600,000 people, with aggregate payrolls of more than \$15.5 billion annually.
- ▶ Co-ops generate annual revenues in excess of \$273 billion.
- ▶ The top 100 co-ops had total revenues of more than \$150 billion in 2006.

There are many types of co-ops in many different industries. Some individual co-op sectors include industries such as...

- ▶ **AGRICULTURE**—Three thousand co-ops, with 2.8 million members, market approximately one-

third of U.S. farm products.

- ▶ **CREDIT UNIONS**—Approximately 8,500 credit unions have more than 90 million members and \$750 billion in assets.

- ▶ **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**—Some 260 co-ops provide service to 1.9 million people.

- ▶ **ELECTRIC**—Nearly 1,000 co-ops own and maintain nearly half of the electric distribution lines in the United States. Their lines cover three-quarters of the U.S. land mass and provide electricity to 39 million Americans.

- ▶ **HOUSING**—Approximately 7,500 co-ops provide homes for 1.2 million families, or 3 million people.
- ▶ **GROCERY**—More than 350 retail and wholesale co-ops have annual revenues of \$33.5 billion. Retail food co-ops alone have 500,000 members.
- ▶ **PURCHASING**—Some 300 co-ops serve 50,000 independent small businesses.

Throughout October, Butler REC will be celebrating and we invite you to celebrate with us. Visit our web site a www.butler.co-op for a complete list of events.

Time to Celebrate Cooperative Month!

- ▶ **October 5-9**—Member Appreciation Week
- ▶ **October 13**—Walnut River Festival
- ▶ **October 17**—BCCC Football Game
- ▶ **October 19**—Energy Efficiency Seminar

Also During Co-op Month:

- ▶ Adopt-a-Highway
- ▶ Coloring contest
- ▶ Daily door prizes and treats for the children at Butler REC offices
- ▶ Visiting area high school football games



Butler REC Energy Efficiency Seminar October 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Butler REC would like to invite you to our second Energy Efficiency Seminar.

Our first seminar in August was so successful we decided to offer a second on October 19, at 6:30 p.m. at the El Dorado Civic Center (201 E Central).

Presenters will answer the following questions about your electric bill.

- ▶ What is demand and how does it relate to my bill?
- ▶ How can I manage my bill?
- ▶ How can I be more energy efficient?

To register call Barbara at 316-321-9600 or 800-464-0060. Please RSVP for the seminar by October 14. Don't miss out on this great learning opportunity.



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Reduce Your Energy Bill with "Together We Save"

Butler REC encourages you to see how making little changes can add up on your electricity bill.

Butler REC, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, recently launched "Together We Save," the brand's new energy-efficiency themed campaign.

The campaign is aimed at inspiring you to be part of an energy and money-saving movement. At TogetherWeSave.com, you will find tools to help you and your family reduce your energy bill.

The interactive home tour allows you to "travel" from room-to-room of a virtual



Butler REC encourages you to see how making little changes can add up on your bill by visiting www.TogetherWeSave.com.

house to make energy decisions and shows how those small changes can affect your yearly energy savings. The site also provides videos with tips on lighting, weatherizing, insulation, heating and cooling systems, which can make your home more energy efficient.

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The Apero works on the proven principle of natural convection and its thermostat control is sensitive to 1/5 degree F. It's the perfect choice when you need to replace an old baseboard heater or in your home where your central heating system doesn't heat adequately.

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- ▶ Five-year guarantee applies to the heating elements.

Get the Jump on Drafty Windows

Windows provide our homes with light, warmth, and ventilation. But when winter sets in, they can have a downside.

Placing your hand against a window pane on a chilly fall morning proves the point: if the pane feels cold, it's a good bet you can reduce energy costs by either insulating your existing windows or installing new, energy-efficient upgrades.

Insulating with draperies is a low-cost quick fix to drafty windows and can reduce heat loss from a room up to 10 percent. And they're just as helpful in hot summer months by blocking sunlight. White plastic-backed drapes can reduce heat gain by up to 33 percent.

Interior storm window panels are another low-cost fix (available at most hardware stores) and consist of flexible or rigid plastic installed over or adhered to existing window panes. Installation is fairly simple, and panels are either taped on or mounted with Velcro, magnetic strips, or snap-in seals. Put them up in autumn and remove them in spring to reduce winter heat

loss by up to 50 percent.

If you're in the market for new windows altogether, be sure to choose energy-efficient models that will shave heating, cooling, and lighting costs year round.

Energy Star® has established a set of energy performance ratings, tailored to four climate zones across the United States, to guide you in selecting windows perfect for your home. These performance ratings are broken into several categories, although the two most basic are U-Factor and Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC), which can be found on window stickers or packaging.

In simple terms, U-Factor measures how easily heat can flow through a window, not counting direct sunlight. The lower the number, the more energy efficient the window.

SHGC measures how much heat from sunlight can be absorbed by the window. A high number means the window remains effective at collecting



Putting up storm windows in autumn and remove them in spring to reduce winter heat loss by up to 50 percent.

heat during winter. A low number provides greater shading ability and may be best for Southern climates.

Here in insert your cooperative name service territory, windows for the North/Central climate zone are best. Look for a U-Factor of less than or equal to 0.40 and a SHGC of less than or equal to 0.55.

You can also visit www.energystar.gov for more details on our climate zone and other criteria to consider when shopping for new windows.

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