

Vote Yes on Issue 2

Please vote Yes on Issue 2 this November. This is a statewide ballot initiative to help strengthen Ohio's agricultural business and help the many families, businesses and communities that rely on Ohio agriculture.

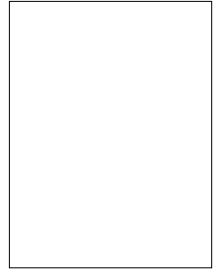
Issue 2 is supported by the vast majority of the state's representatives and senators – of all political parties – as well as Governor Strickland. It also carries the endorsement of most agricultural-related state agencies such as the Ohio Department of Agriculture and political action groups like Ohio Farm Bureau. The Midwest Electric board of trustees and the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives statewide association passed resolutions this year supporting Ohio's agricultural community and efforts like Issue 2.

Issue 2 is an Ohio constitutional amendment that creates a 13-member Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board. The board will be charged with establishing fair, effective regulation of animal care on livestock and poultry farms. The panel will include family farmers, veterinarians, a food safety expert, a representative of a local humane society, members of statewide farm organizations, the dean of an Ohio agriculture college and two consumers.

The board would develop and enforce guidelines for the care and shelter of livestock and poultry in Ohio, while also ensuring safe, affordable and locally raised food. Issue 2 would keep control of agriculture inside the state and out of the hands of radical groups such as the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

HSUS, which is based in California and is not affiliated with your local humane societies, is pushing for harsh laws state-by-state that would severely restrict how farmers run their business and care for their livestock. Many believe the HSUS agenda would lead to significantly higher prices, the loss of technological advances in agriculture, and the closing of many local farms and ag-related businesses.

Supporters of Issue 2 believe decisions about animal care should be made by Ohioans for Ohioans. Issue 2 will assure Ohio families have a safe, locally grown food supply, and it brings together the best Ohio expertise in animal care to ensure excellent care of the state's flocks and herds.



*Rick Gerdeman
Manager/CEO*

Vote Yes on Issue 2 (con't)

Issue 2 will help maintain the viability of Ohio agriculture - the state's number one economic contributor.

While Issue 2 enjoys widespread support, it is opposed by national groups from outside Ohio who advocate for a vegetarian/vegan lifestyle and want to eliminate all meat and meat products from our diets.

Ohio producers follow best animal well-being practices and treat their animals humanely and provide their animals with adequate food, water, shelter and care.

For more, visit www.ohiolivestockcare.org.

A new Touchstone Energy Home

Lucie Pohl and Creative Builders has built its third Touchstone Energy Home, this one for William Glass in St. Henry.

The two-story, 4,800-square-foot home with basement features an air source heat pump with electric backup from Franck's Plumbing & Heating and foam and fiberglass insulation from Momper's Insulation, with blown-in cellulose in the attic.

The home is guaranteed to cost just over \$90 per month for heating and cooling.



Midwest Electric starts installing new metering system

Midwest Electric recently started installing a new advanced meter infrastructure (AMI) system to provide automatic meter readings and greater intelligence and information on the status of our electric system. (Please continue to send your monthly meter reading until further notice.)

Technologies like AMI and downline automation help electric utilities

better meet consumers' needs by more effectively monitoring demand and system conditions on a near real-time basis.

It combines digital devices and two-way communications with meters and other devices to pinpoint outages; identify voltages out of allowed ranges; and provide meter readings on-demand.

With additional equipment, Midwest Electric could combine the AMI system to transmit messages to transformers, capacitors, circuit breakers, and other distribution equipment for diagnostic or corrective (self-healing) actions.

Roger Rank earns Director Certificate from NRECA

Midwest Electric board trustee Roger Rank has earned the Board Leadership Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The Board Leadership Certificate is the next level after the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate. It recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after completing the CCD program.

The program covered topics in board governance and policy; communications and public affairs; technology; disaster planning; ethics; and financial and rate is-



Manager/CEO Rick Gerdeman, right, presents Roger Rank with his Board Leadership Certificate from NRECA.

sues.

Rank, of Van Wert, has been a Midwest Electric member since 1974 and a trustee for 12 years.

Photo of MEI ami meter installation

In memoriam

Earl Stienecker

Earl W. Stienecker, 89, former general manager of Midwest Electric, passed away Sept. 14, 2009.

Earl joined the Cooperative in 1946. He was named general manager in 1965 and served as the co-op's



chief executive officer until his retirement in 1986.

In addition to serving as GM, he was very community-oriented, serving as director of the St. Marys Chamber of Commerce and treasurer of the Auglaize-Mercer Visitors and Convention Bureau among many other volunteer activities.

Earl started the Fusebusters 4-H electricity club in 1954, which continues today and has taught hundreds of boys and girls about electricity, electronics and magnetism. Many have gone on to related careers.

He was a 1937 graduate of St. Marys Memorial High School and an Army veteran of World War II, serving in the Asiatic/Pacific Theater near New Zealand.

Earl joined Midwest Electric as a groundman, then moved to meterman, lineman, electrification advisor, and electric operations manager before ending as general manager.

Survivors include two sons, five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by Dolores, his wife.

\$477,666 returned to you

Midwest Electric in November will return \$477,666 to current and former members. This payment is being made from your patronage capital account.

For most eligible current members, this payment will be applied on the electric bill mailed at the end of November. (Please remember to still provide your meter reading even if you have a \$0 or credit balance.)

Every business needs "capital" to operate. Basically, "capital" means cash. These cash funds are used to operate the business (your electric cooperative).

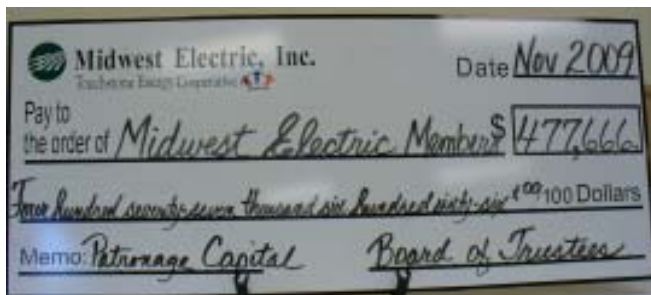
The capital is "invested" in poles, wire, transformers, meters, trucks and equipment - all the things required to bring electricity to you. Capital comes in two major forms: borrowed funds, or debt, and owner's equity, or cash invested by the owners of the corporation. In a cooperative, you, the members are the owners, and your investment is called "patronage capital."

If the cooperative had no member equity, all funds for reliability improvements would have to be borrowed. In order to repay the loans, plus interest, electric rates would have to be increased to cover this debt service. Conversely, if the cooperative had no borrowed funds, all the capital would have to be provided by the membership through electric rates. The membership cannot afford a zero-debt or high-debt capital structure. It therefore is the responsibility of the board and management to strike a balance between debt and equity.

What this means is, within your rate, there is a "capital component." Midwest Electric collects revenue to reinvest into the electric system. Our members' investments are held in patronage capital accounts. Based upon your electric use each year, a share of the annual margins is added to your patronage account. These funds make up the members' equity in the cooperative and are returned over time as "patronage capital retirements."

We are on a 15-year rotation, meaning this year's payment is to those who were members in 1994. This represents half the cooperative's margins from 1994, and the remaining half would be returned in November 2010 if the cooperative's financial condition permits. This would move us to a 16-year rotation. The national average for electric cooperatives is around 20 years.

Since 1955, Midwest Electric has returned more than \$19 million in patronage capital.



Caulk and weatherstrip to slow drafts

Caulking and weatherstripping work well for stopping drafts that you feel near your windows and doors during winter. Caulking is for any stationary joint, and weatherstripping is for the moving joints of doors and windows.

For air-tightening, you want to caulk from your home's interior. Standard acrylic latex caulking or siliconized acrylic latex are good choices for interior caulking. Before caulking around window or door casings or baseboard, make sure that these trim boards aren't loose.

If they are loose, re nail them with finish nails. A cleverly placed finish nail may be the best way to close a large crack.

The caulking of cracks in

unseen areas is just as important as caulking around baseboards and trim. Look for cracks and holes in closets and thoroughly inspect under cabinets, behind furniture and at the floor-wall junction under the baseboard.

Caulk your home's exterior only for stopping rain. The areas most needing caulking are the door and window frames where these trim boards meet the siding. You don't want to seal joints in the siding itself because it needs to move and breathe.

Weatherstripping doors can slow drafts if you take the time to do a good job. Before weatherstripping, make sure that the door



*Dave Waltermire,
Energy Advisor*

latches properly and that all the hardware is firmly attached. Look first at the hinges to see if there are any loose screws. Then check the doorknob and latch. Does the door move back and forth while latched? If so, you

may need to move the strike plate — the latch attached to the doorjamb — to prevent the door from moving while closed.

Choose a high-quality door weatherstrip that will allow some movement, because doors expand and contract with seasonal changes in temperature and humidity. Cut the pieces carefully so they meet at the corners. Install a sweep or door shoe at the bottom of the door where it meets the threshold. A good weatherstripping job also will keep dust from blowing into the home.



Get the Jump on Drafty Windows

- Insulate with white plastic-backed drapes to reduce heat loss.
- Interior storm window panels reduce heat loss, and consist of flexible or rigid plastic installed over or adhered to existing window panes. Panels are either taped on or mounted with Velcro, magnetic strips, or snap-in seals.
- When shopping for new windows altogether, look

for Energy Star® performance ratings for U-Factor and Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC).

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 heat during winter.

Here in west central Ohio, windows for the Northern climate zone are best. Look for a U-Factor of 0.35 or less. You can also visit www.energystar.gov for more details on our climate zone and other criteria to consider when shopping for new windows.