



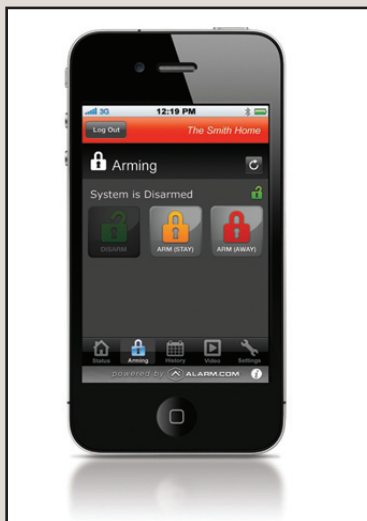
Meeker Cooperative PIONEER

February 2012

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Official publication of

Meeker
Cooperative
Light and Power Association

www.meecker.coop

Meeker Co-op introduces E-Bill to members

Beginning on March 1, 2012, Meeker Cooperative is pleased to offer you, our members, a new “E-Bill” service — the option to view your bill online and, if you choose, to also pay your bill online with a credit card or electronic check.

This new E-Bill service is available on Meeker’s website on March 1, at www.meecker.coop. Simply click on the E-Bill icon on the homepage and you can follow the prompts to sign up for this new service. As an E-Bill member you will have access to an online version of your paper bill. This is a wonderful option for members who travel, or for our “snow birds” who are away from home for extended periods of time. Also, you will have access to graphs showing your electric usage history, cost history and averages so you can track times of heavier electricity use and how it correlates to your bills.

Join E-Bill and go paperless!

In an ever-increasing goal to become more conscious of our environment, Meeker Co-op is joining other cooperatives in striving for a paperless billing system. When you sign up for the E-Bill option, you will no longer receive a paper bill. You’ll have something better! Your payment history, billing statements and usage history will be at your fingertips online, rather than taking up space in a folder somewhere in your desk at home. As more and more businesses set the goal to become paperless, Meeker Cooperative is in-step with this trend, fulfilling our mission to be good environmental stewards.

More ways to pay your bill!

Meeker Cooperative offers many options to keep current with your electric bill. We understand that everyone has their favorite way to pay and we want to offer options to meet our members’ needs:

By Mail

Send a check along with your bill by mail. As postage rates rise, many are rethinking this option.

In Person

Several of our members deliver their bills in person to 1725 U.S. Hwy. 12 E., Litchfield, MN 55355, or by placing it in our drop box by the front doors.

Monthly Auto-Pay option (Bank Draft)

For those who would like to enjoy the convenience of paying without a check or credit card, consider Meeker Co-op’s monthly Auto Pay Bank Draft feature. This free feature saves the cost of an envelope, saves a stamp, and saves you from ever receiving a late fee. It works beautifully with the E-Bill online bill viewing feature. You will always know how much your

E-Bill, Continued on Page 3

Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association Notice of Annual Meeting

Please take notice that the Annual Meeting of the stockholders of Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 16, 2012, at Meeker Cooperative, 1725 U.S. Hwy. 12 E., Suite 100, Litchfield, Minnesota, for the following purposes:

1. Reading of, and acting upon, the unapproved minutes of the 2011 annual meeting;
2. Receiving and acting upon reports of officers, directors and committees;
3. Electing three directors of the Cooperative to fill offices of those whose terms expire on April 16, 2012;
4. Consider any unfinished business and take up such new business as shall properly come before the meeting and act on such matters as necessary for the best interest of the Association.

Jeffrey Anderson, Secretary

ENERGY Update

Air is drawn into your home from low areas, so inspect your foundation for potential air-infiltration points. Fixing these leaks makes a bigger impact on your electric bill than sealing doors and windows! Caulk all cracks and gaps around your home including spaces around wires for telephone, electrical, cable, and gas lines, water spigots, and dryer vents. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Saying goodbye to “Three EM Amigos”

A new year usually brings the promise of change of some kind. Well, at Meeker Cooperative, changes in personnel are the biggest news. Three of our veteran pioneers of the Energy Management department have officially retired.

Darrell Ward

**Cooperative Services/Marketing Manager
Retired January 3, 2012 after 27 years**



Many long-term members of the Cooperative know Darrell Ward either by name, by face, by his voice, or by his alter-ego, “Mr. Meeker.”

Darrell joined Meeker Cooperative’s Member Services department on April 2, 1984, as its Cooperative Services Manager. His primary duties included customer service, member events and building the load management programs which had barely begun at that point.

“When I started, the energy (load) management programs involved mostly irrigation and some dual fuel,” he said.

Since then, Darrell and the employees he hired have built the program to add storage water, Energy Wise water, cycled air, and a great many more dual fuel and irrigation accounts. Today, more than half of Meeker’s membership use some type of energy management program, saving the member and the Co-op money on the cost of electricity.

Darrell said that the relationships he built with employees and members was the best part of his career at Meeker Co-op.

“I also liked the variety of work,” he said. “Every day was different.”

After retirement, Darrell and his wife Bonnie plan to travel more. Darrell also plans to spend more time on the lake and in the woods, as well as teaching his grandchildren everything he knows.

Dale Ackman

**Energy Management Technician
Retired January 18, 2012, after 25 years**



Dale began as a 1,000-hour employee in the fall of 1986, and was eventually tapped for the Energy Management (EM) department when those programs

began to take off. Dale began full-time in 1989. Staking of new homes was brought into the EM area so homeowners and builders would work with one person regarding all their line extension and EM program needs. It wasn’t long before Dale found his niche in the record-keeping of energy management programs.

Dale’s official retirement date was January 18 although he and his wife Karen were already on the road to southern states by then. The first three months of retirement will be spent traveling.

He has enjoyed his job and the variety it offers.

“I liked keeping records, just ask my wife,” said Dale. “But I also liked the freedom to be out talking with members and not stuck in the office. I enjoyed the challenge of working with metering, making sure everything worked right.” Following retirement, Dale and Karen plan to continue traveling more. He also

will spend more time with family and helping his two brothers farm.

Maynard Theis

**Energy Management Technician
Retiring February 29, 2012, after 17 years**



Maynard was hired April 1, 1994, and would have celebrated his 17th year with the Co-op had he not made plans to retire at the end of February.

“I was hired April Fool’s Day and will retire on Leap Year Day,” Maynard said, laughing.

Maynard was originally hired as the purchasing/warehouse agent at the Co-op. When the Energy Management department needed additional help, Maynard was asked if he wanted the opportunity.

As a licensed electrician who worked for Wagoner Electric before joining Meeker Co-op, it was an asset having his skills on board when working with electricians and contractors. Maynard has enjoyed doing staking jobs on new homes.

“I like seeing a job grow from a five-acre bare lot through the construction process to a finished home,” Maynard said.

After retirement, Maynard and his wife Marge have plans to do “a lot of things.” More specifically, he wants to fish, snowmobile and camp more, spend more time with his eight grandchildren, participate more in the organizations and clubs he’s involved in (he’s chairman of the Threshers Committee). He also plans to continue to refurbish and maintain his antique tractor collection.

New faces in New Places



Energy Management Technician **Chris Toenjes** has been promoted to replace Darrell Ward as Meeker’s Member Service Manager. Chris has been with Meeker

Co-op for six years. Prior to that, he worked with McLeod Co-op Power in Glencoe. Chris has a BS in Energy Management, a AA in Electrical Construction and is a Certified Energy Manager.

Chris Larson has been moved into the Energy Management department on a more full-time basis. Chris has been with Meeker Co-op for six years managing WildBlue installation and service. Chris also has experience in the HVAC industry.



“Losing these three employees means we have a huge hole to fill,” said Meeker Cooperative CEO/General Manager Tim Mergen. “We have about 70 combined years of experience walking out the door and we have appreciated their expertise over the years.

“However, I am confident that Chris Toenjes, Chris Larson and the other personnel we hire for the department will help us move ahead with the energy management goals we have for the Co-op.”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karl Lundin, President — District 9

North Kingston, Kingston, Forest City in Meeker

James Wirz, Vice President — District 3

Luxemburg, Maine Prairie, South Maine Prairie in Stearns; Forest Prairie in Meeker

Jeffrey Anderson, Secretary — District 5

Fairhaven in Stearns; Kokato, Southside, French Lake in Wright; Dassel in Meeker

Mark Larson, Treasurer — District 6

Harrison, Kandiyohi, Genessee, Fahlun, Lake Elizabeth, E. Lake Lillian in Kandiyohi; Cosmos, Acton, Danielson, Swede Grove in Meeker; Brookfield, Boon Lake in Renville

Juanita Olson — District 1

Roseville, Irving in Kandiyohi; Paynesville in

Stearns; Union Grove in Meeker

Karen Becker — District 2

Eden Lake in Stearns; Harvey, Manannah in Meeker

DeWayne Albright — District 4

Litchfield, Greenleaf in Meeker

K. Bruce Krueger — District 7

Collinwood, Cedar Mills in Meeker; Stockholm in Wright; Acoma, Hutchinson in McLeod

Larry Huhn — District 8

Darwin, Ellsworth in Meeker

Kim Keithahn — Attorney

MEEKER PIONEER

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CEO/General Manager: Tim Mergen
Editor: Becky Sorenson

The Meeker Pioneer is the official member publication of Meeker Cooperative and focuses on our members, programs and events. All member story ideas and comments are welcome. Send to Becky Sorenson at the address above.

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For 24-hour service call

320-693-3231 or 800-232-6257

Fax: 320-693-2980

Web site: www.meeker.coop

Use the “Contact Us” form on the home page

Meeker Cooperative Mission Statement

“To enhance the quality of life of the Cooperative’s Members and Customers by providing safe, reliable, competitively priced energy and other value-added services, while practicing environmental stewardship.”

Meeker Cooperative's 2012 Rebate/Grant Program



Residential Rebates

Energy Wise Electric Water Heating

(eight-hour control)\$400.00 Rebate
 Minimum of 80-gallon water heater\$4.00/month credit

Dual Fuel Installations

All controlled Dual Fuel installationsNo Rebate
 are sub-meteredHalf-Price Electricity

Air ConditioningNo Rebate

Cycled Air program sub-meteredHalf-Price Electricity

Heat Pumps (Quality Installation required)

SEER rating 14 or greater (Controlled).....\$400 Rebate
 Ground Source Heat Pump (Controlled)\$200/Ton (Max 5 Tons)
 Ground Source Heat Pump (Uncontrolled) ...\$100/Ton (Max 5 Tons)

Storage Space Heating

Room Storage and Central Storage Furnace\$25/KW Installed
 Slab Storage Heat\$25/KW Installed

Service Conductor Installations

New and existing accounts that install a minimum of 15 KW (15,000 watts) of controlled electric heat will be credited \$1.00/Lineal Foot for either underground or overhead services.

Agricultural Grants

Grants are available to help with the cost of energy efficiency projects such as:

- **Lighting Retrofits**
- **Lighting New Construction**
- **Compressed Air Evaluation**
- **Ag Ventilation**
- **Dairy Plate Coolers**
- **Dairy Free Heater**
- **Design Assistance**
- **Variable Frequency Drives**

To apply for a Meeker Cooperative grant, please contact our office before you begin your project. All applications must be received before the project begins.

Grants are limited to projects that will require a minimum of a one-year payback. Grants exceeding \$5,000 require approval by the Meeker Cooperative Board of Directors, so keep that in mind when considering your project schedule.

Please contact the Co-op with your questions, ideas or to receive design/project assistance at: 320-693-3231 or 800-232-6257.

E-Bill: Many options to pay your bill

Continued from Page 1

bill is ahead of time and the date when that amount will be deducted from your checking or savings account. You can sign up for this service on the E-Bill website page, or contact our office for a paper application.

E-Bill payment with credit card or electronic check

As you are aware, credit card companies charge businesses a service fee for allowing credit card payments. Therefore, if you choose to pay your bill with a credit card through the E-Bill option, there will be a \$3.95 fee for this convenience. There is a folder on the E-Bill page where you can store your credit card information for your convenience so you don't have to get your card out each month. This information, as well as all financial information, will be securely protected and never shared with anyone. This is only for your own use and convenience when making payments. Under the

convenience fee model, we aren't able to offer recurring credit card or check payments at this time. Therefore, payments will have to be made manually each month.

Budget Billing

When you sign up for the budget billing method, your electric usage will be averaged over the past year or more to arrive at a monthly billing amount. This amount will remain stable (within \$10 above or below, depending on electricity usage). This is an easy way to stick to a budget and works very well with the Auto Pay option. You'll still be able to keep track of your actual usage and the amount you owe online with Meeker's new E-Bill option.

If you have questions about any of these methods, please feel free to contact our Customer Service department at 800-232-6257 or 320-693-3231.

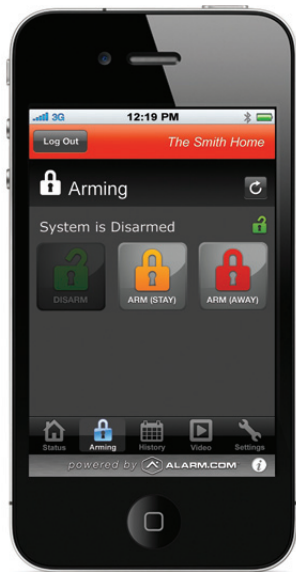
An opportunity for teachers...

This year's **Lignite Teacher Education Seminar: Energy, Economics & Environment** is scheduled for June 18-21 at the National Energy Center of Excellence on the campus of Bismarck State College. As always, Great River Energy will sponsor up to ten teachers from its Minnesota distribution cooperatives. Location #18-29-102

Teachers who attend the four-day seminar and complete a lesson plan are eligible to receive two graduate credits in economics from University of North Dakota, two graduate credits in science from Minot State University, or two graduate credits in education from North Dakota State University. Besides lectures and classroom activities, seminar participants will tour a lignite mine, a power plant fueled by lignite and the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on the third day of the seminar.

If you are a classroom teacher of any grade level, please consider applying before April 13, 2012. If you are selected to attend, you will be asked to submit a \$60 reservation fee (which will be refunded the first day of class). Emails have been sent to area school principals with attached brochure and application.

Interested teachers may contact their principal, or call Becky Sorenson at Meeker Cooperative at 800-232-6257 or 320-693-3231.



Heartland Security Services Goes Interactive

SECURITY AVAILABLE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

No matter where you are, Heartland Security keeps you close to home. View system status, monitor activity, watch live video, arm or disarm your system, set up user codes and even control your lights and thermostats — all from easy-to-use web and mobile interfaces.



Stay Secure. Stay Connected

WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY

Heartland Security uses a Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) cellular network to maintain a dedicated and secure connection to your security system — no wires, no hassles. With this wireless technology, your system is always in communication with the response center.

INTERACTIVE SERVICES

You can now have instant access to what's happening when you're not at home. Set up real-time text and e-mail alerts. Keep track of activity on entry doors, windows, medicine cabinets, safes, drawers and more. Free mobile apps are also available for your BlackBerry, iPhone, Android or other mobile devices, making it easy to protect what matters most!

emPower™ ENERGY MANAGEMENT

emPower gives you remote control and intelligent automation of lights, appliances and thermostats. From your smartphone or laptop, you have the ability to make smart energy decisions when you are not at home.



VIDEO MONITORING

Heartland Security allows you to see what's going on from any web-enabled computer or mobile device through IP addressable cameras (this service requires a high-speed broadband Internet connection).

For more information on the Interactive Home Security Solutions, or to watch an interactive demonstration, visit www.heartlandss.com.



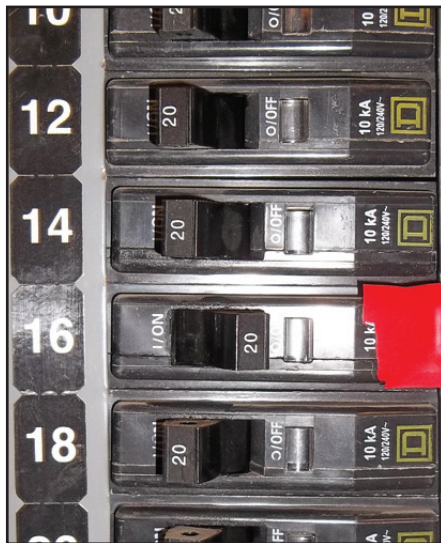
Power outage? Check these items before calling the Cooperative

It's a sinking, helpless feeling when you realize you have no electricity. Suddenly you're without so many of the everyday conveniences that we take for granted... maybe even heat.

It's a natural reaction to call the Co-op and get power restored as quickly as possible. However, it's to your advantage to stop and check a few things first, before calling to report an outage. The Cooperative's responsibility for power outages ends at the meter. We will repair and maintain the distribution lines, transformer (green box in your yard), poles, and line that connects to your meter, which is either located on your house or other building, or on a stand-alone pole. If we dispatch a truck and crew to repair an outage and we discover that the problem doesn't involve distribution lines, meter or transformer, but rather is inside your home, you will incur a service charge from the Co-op and still will not have power restored.

When you notice that your power is out, first call your neighbors to see if they have power. If they do have power, it's a good chance that the issue is isolated to your location. Next, please follow these steps:

1 Check your breakers in your home's electrical panel. Check to make sure that all of the circuits that should be on, are on. If not, flip the switches that are "OFF" and recheck to see if power has been restored. If



Check your breaker panel for breakers that have flipped to the "off" position.

all the circuits are on and there still isn't power, then...

2 If you have a fuse box, check to see that all the fuses are good or replace a blown fuse. If all the fuses are fine, then...

3 Inspect the meter. If there is power to the meter, you should be able to see a red light, located through a cut-out section of the meter either on the left side or on the bottom of the meter (see photo). If you see a red light, then there is power to the meter and the problem exists in your home wiring. At this point, it will be necessary to call your local electrician. If you have a digital meter, you should see a digital number in the display area indicating that the meter has power. If there is no digital display or red light, then it's time to call the Cooperative. You can call your Cooperative 24/7 to report an

outage. PLEASE have your location or account number when you call to expedite the process. Line crews are always on call to assist members as quickly as possible. After hours, your call will be routed to trained dispatchers at the Cooperative Resource Center (CRC) where they will assist you.

WARNING: DO NOT try to open a meter to repair a problem yourself. There is a seal on the meter and it is illegal to tamper with that seal in any way. It is also a safety issue. If



If there is power to the meter, you will see a red light inside the meter, either on the bottom or on the left side, and digital meters will have a numbered display.

we find that the seal has been cut, removed or otherwise tampered with, you will have to pay a fine and a meter resealing charge.

We hope that all our members will make it through the winter without an outage of any kind. However, incidents beyond our control can happen. We hope that this information will help you know when to call your electrician and when to call your Co-op to avoid unnecessary frustration and cost.

INDUSTRY

News

Nuclear leaves smaller environmental footprint than biofuels, wind power

Under the headline, "Small Is Beautiful-So Go Nuclear," Robert Bryce, senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, writes for the Wall Street Journal (1/19, Bryce, Subscription Publication, 2.08M) that in terms of energy production, the objective of decreasing the size of power generators into the smallest possible footprints makes the most sense, both from an economic as well as an environmental perspective. Unfortunately, Bryce suggests, some clean alternative sources like biofuels and wind power have huge footprints, wasting land and other resources. Bryce says nuclear power is by far the most effective generator of clean electricity with the smallest footprint.

~NRECA News Briefings

LED prices are falling and so will household power consumption

Seven years ago Mike Brakey was spending an average of \$170 per month on power and far more during some months. Today Brakey's home uses about 500 kilowatt-hours per month and his monthly bill is often below \$40. One reason is the LED light bulb, the "light-emitting diode" that General Electric researchers invented 50 years ago, which is now the focus of intense competition among all of the major lighting manufacturers.

"There are two races going on," said Todd Manegold, the LED product manager for Philips Electric. "One is the race to equivalency. It's about delivering light bulbs that replicate or imitate what people are used to. Once you reach equivalency, the game is how to make it more affordable. We think we have gotten it more affordable."

Industry experts say that within a decade LEDs will eclipse conventional lighting such as halogen and compact fluorescent bulbs — and not because of any new government regulations, but rather because it will just make sense economically. The switch is already under way for commercial customers, especially in new construction, where newly designed fixtures incorporated LEDs. But there are an estimated 2.6 billion light bulb sockets in American homes, making them the big prize for the industry.

LED bulbs are still far more expensive than any other light you can buy, more expensive than old fashioned bulbs, than halogens and CFL bulbs. However, old-fashioned light bulbs put out 10 to 15 lumens per watt — or about 800 lumens for a 60-watt bulb; a CFL gives off 40 to 60 lumens per watt. "The technology is now at point, where LEDs can produce 100 to 150 lumens per watt. They are now the most efficient white light source." For most consumers, the price at which it will make sense to buy an LED that will last 20 years is somewhere between \$10 and \$20, Griffiths said.

~Cleveland Plain Dealer

Ash donation supports Safe Routes to Schools program



Safe sidewalks are an important step toward safe routes to schools. A Great River Energy donation will make it possible for students in one North Dakota community to bike and walk to class more easily and safely.

A donation of ash produced at Great River Energy power plants will help the Safe Routes to Schools program improve the health and well-being of children by enabling and encouraging them to choose active

ways to get to school. The project will use Great River Energy ash for the replacement of an existing sidewalk in Washburn, ND.

The new sidewalks will use bottom ash as a soil stabilizer to help build a

firm foundation for concrete, which will incorporate fly ash, another byproduct of coal-fueled electricity generation.

When fly ash is used as a replacement for a portion of cement in sidewalk construction, the concrete has been proven to be stronger and longer-lasting. Other community benefits include the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. Approximately one ton of greenhouse gas emissions are prevented for every ton of fly ash used in place of cement.

Source: Great River News

exceed: To be greater than or superior to; to go beyond the limits.



Introducing **exedesm** Satellite High-Speed Internet from ViaSat

exede by ViaSat exceeds any expectations you have of satellite technology and speed! This new service, offered by your Cooperative, even exceeds the average DSL speed! If you long for a faster, more satisfying internet experience, this is what you've been waiting for!

All three packages offer the same remarkable speed:

| Packages | Download Speed | Upload Speed | Monthly Usage Maximum | Price |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| exede 12-10 | 12 Mbps | 3 Mbps | 10 GB | \$56.90/month |
| exede 12-15 | 12 Mbps | 3 Mbps | 15 GB | \$86.94/month |
| exede 12-25 | 12 Mbps | 3 Mbps | 25 GB | \$136.94/month |

Cost of packages relates to combined bandwidth usage (Data Allowance Policy) each month.

\$149* Installation Fee

\$99** Upgrade Fee for current WildBlue customers until April 16, 2012. Then the regular fee applies.

Fee includes professional installation, siting, instructions on how to use the system, plus a \$6.95 monthly equipment lease/warranty/extended service fee. Equipment remains the property of Meeker Cooperative.

*\$149 installation fee assumes 2-year contract with monthly Auto Pay.

**\$99 installation fee assumes 3-year contract with monthly Auto Pay.

Indulge your need for speed with **exede**. Call today!



320-693-3231
800-232-6257

1725 U.S. Hwy. 12 E
Litchfield, MN
www.meeker.coop

Learn About Co-ops

It's a Matter of PRINCIPLE

The Rochdale Principles

Co-ops deliver electricity, sell produce, provide loans, and arrange for housing, health care, and more. But despite these differences, they all have one thing in common—seven cooperative principles:

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Members' Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training, Information
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- Concern for Community

Learn more at www.go.coop.

Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World

A message from America's Electric Cooperatives

Nancy Grossinger of Watkins submitted this month's winning recipe — **Creamy Pepper Chicken Soup!** Nancy will receive a \$10 credit on her electric bill.

For March, submit your favorite Pie recipe!

Creamy Pepper Chicken Soup

| | |
|--|---|
| 1 cup butter | 3 cups heavy cream |
| 2 small onions, chopped | 3/8 cup flour |
| 2 cups fresh mushr., chopped | 4 cups cooked chicken breast, diced |
| 2 cups peppers, chopped (green, red, yellow peppers) | 3 cups grated pepper Jack cheese |
| 6 cups water | Optional items: Dash Tabasco sauce, rice, carrots, celery |
| 2 Tbsp. chicken base | |
| 1/2 tsp. white pepper, or to taste | |

In a Dutch oven, melt 4 Tbsp. butter. Saute onions, mushrooms and peppers until soft. Add water, chicken base, pepper, cream and Tabasco. Heat to boiling and reduce heat to simmer. In a saute pan, melt remaining butter and stir in flour until smooth. Stir this mixture into the soup to thicken. Add diced chicken. Slowly add cheese, stirring until melted. Serves 10-12.

Please send in your favorite Pie Recipe by March 1, to:

Meeker Cooperative, ATTN: Becky Sorenson,
P.O. Box 68, Litchfield, MN 55355-0068

Cooperatives share common values and principles

Cooperatives are businesses owned and run by and for their members.

Whether the members are the customers, employees or residents they have an equal say in what the business does and a share in the costs and margins.

Successful cooperatives around the world are allowing people to work together to create sustainable enterprises that generate jobs and prosperity and provide needed benefits and services to members. Location #35-02-301

As businesses driven by values and not profits, cooperatives share internationally-agreed-upon principles and act together to build a better world through cooperation.

One of those principles is:

1. Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are organizations open to all

persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

Meeker Co-op members are allowed to run for seats on the board of directors, vote on who represents them on the board, and address issues of importance. Meeker Cooperative's Annual Meeting provides information to members about how their Co-op is operating financially and provides opportunities to be heard.

Cooperatives innovate to meet the needs of their members, and may offer new products or services—ahead of competing businesses—because members ask for it.

For example, Meeker Cooperative offers its members the following services:

• **Heartland Security Services**, providing protection from fire, water damage, theft, animal loss, frozen pipes, and more for our members at a reduced cost.

• **High-speed satellite internet service** to our members who have no other option because they choose to live in the country.

Cooperatives are created by members as a benefit to its members. It's a fair, equitable and responsible way of doing business. It has been estimated that the co-op way of doing business will be the fastest growing business model in the world by the year 2020.



There's an App for that...



Forget to bring your Co-op Connections Card with you, but still want the prescription drug or other retail discount? No problem, just whip out your phone.

The new, free Co-op Connections app is available for the iPhone, iPad and iPod touch, Droid and Blackberry. Once downloaded, the program prompts you to select your Co-op, a choice that becomes locked in place.

"The opening screen will have the card front with the option of going to the Co-op's own Co-op Connections website," explained Jason McGrade, Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives senior Web development and social media specialist.

"If you select the card, the back of the card will display, showcasing the pharmacy discount information. That can be presented to a pharmacist who can use that information to give the discount if you don't have your physical card in hand."

The app features an alphabetized list of the more than 100 national deals the Co-op Connections Card currently offers. "You can select each one and that, in turn, takes you to the deal," McGrade said. "If it's an e-commerce deal you click the link provided, or if it's a coupon code that information is available.

"It also features all of the local deals. It's the full database of all the active deals within the Co-op Connections Card network.

"In addition, we've added the GPS feature, so that based on where your exact location happens to be, if you have the GPS turned on you'll be able to map deals in your immediate area," McGrade said. So if you're hungry, and looking for a bargain nearby, you're in luck.

"You can say, 'I want restaurants.' Click on the restaurants, and within that there will be another tab that says 'map it.' Select that option and it will bring up that categorical list within the mileage specified.

"When you find an offer that you want to take advantage of, don't worry about finding a printer. Just bring it to the retailer, show it to them, and you're all set," McGrade said, adding that merchants have been fine with looking at the card and the deal on a mobile device.

And if you want to keep the information for future use, McGrade said that's easy, too. "You can save that, so when you're offline you can still have the information available." Location #10-11-103

To download the app, go to the iTunes Store and in the search box type "Co-op Connections," or go to www.connections.coop and click on the icon on the bottom left of the home page.

Source: Michael W. Kahn, Staff Writer, ECT.com

Pioneer Ads Free want ad service for members.

Please limit your ad to nine words. Use the coupon printed below or available at Meeker Cooperative's front desk to submit your ad. Ads will be printed for one month only. Please submit a new ad if you want it published more than one month. Include your name and address, which will be used for identification purposes only. Ads must be received by **March 1** to be included in the March issue. Thank you!

Please run this ad in the next Pioneer

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
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7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

Clip and Send to: Meeker Cooperative, P.O. Box 68,
Litchfield, MN 55355, ATTN: Cheryl Anderson

Please check ad category

____ Giveaway

____ For Rent

____ For Sale

____ Wanted

____ Services

For Sale - Miscellaneous

- Fuel oil barrel and fuel oil burner. Make offer. 320-693-6352.
- Metal shelves. Make offer. 320-693-6352.
- King frame & box spring, never used. \$150. 320-593-2202.
- Wel-bilt log splitter, horizontal, manual, 10-ton. \$100. 320-398-2048.
- Antique wood arrows from 1950s, orig. fletching pts., 11 alum. 2016 arrows, 14 carbon arrows 300s. \$15/all. 507-354-3229.
- Two snow tires, 7:0015LT, new. \$135. 320-894-7267.
- TV antenna, 8'. \$65. 320-894-7267.
- Round table, 42", 12" leaf, 3 chairs, nice. Make offer. 320-693-6625.
- Sears compound shop saw, 10", with laser beam. \$125. 320-275-3117.
- Enco knee mill, 8x36, Dro 3-phase power feed. \$2700. 320-453-2026.
- Lasco recirculating console humidifier, w/new filter. \$25. 952-955-1179.
- Two wing-back chairs, w/ottoman, navy/mauve floral, perfect cond. 320-275-2810.

- 1994 Polaris Indy 440, liquid-cooled, runs great. \$800. 320-398-2754.
- Silver-plated service: teapot/creamer/sugarer/tray. \$79. 320-593-8868.
- Silver-plated chafing dish. \$10/BO. 218-232-5523.
- Spearing/angling house, plywood & canvas, 4'-9" x 4', ice tongs/spear/decoys. \$275/BO. 320-693-8451.
- Twin bed w/bookshelf headboard, matching dressers, interchangeable color panels. 218-232-5523.
- Two carry-on luggage pieces, black, good cond. Best offer. 320-295-3288.
- Boys' Columbia winter coat, red w/black, size 14-16, clean/very good cond. 320-295-3288.
- Boys' Nike hooded jacket, dark green, size 10-12, clean/very good cond. 320-295-3288.
- Norman Rockwell collector mugs, 14k. gold rim, two sets of 4, new in box. 320-699-0160.
- Cherry curio, 5-shelf, 13"x31-1/4"x76-1/2". \$200. 320-444-6357.
- Garage door opener for 7' door, new. \$125. 320-398-5968.

- Fresh beef, quarters or halves, cut/wrapped/frozen. 320-593-1924/320-221-2649.
- Ceiling fan with lights, like new. \$10. 320-398-5968.
- 1950s dining room set: walnut table/chairs/china cupboard. 320-693-7589.
- Arabian mare Bay, 2-yr. old, very sweet. \$300. 320-764-2727.
- Lot, 1.2 acre, on Union Lake, wooded. \$84,900. 320-894-1084.
- Oak table, round. \$150. 320-693-3070.
- Wood cook stove. \$200. 320-693-3070.
- Parlor stoves. \$125/BO. 320-693-3070.
- Nine MN Pheasants Federation stamps & prints, all framed & matted, years 1983-1992. 320-693-6929.
- Panasonic TV, 32". \$50. 320-764-5430.
- Antique oak dresser w/mirror. \$100. 320-764-5430.
- AKC chocolate lab pups, loaded pedigree, sire hunts, ready Feb 29. \$400-\$450. 320-693-2646.
- Fish house on wheels, 7-1/2' x 10', 4 holes. \$2000. 320-221-2103.
- Crow River frontage: 43 acres total-17 tillable, woods, wetlands. 952-261-7495.
- Paint Gelding, well-broke, 10 yrs. old. \$750/BO. 320-699-0643.
- Scrapbook paper and supplies, brand new. 320-764-2649.
- Toddler bed, 'Winnie the Pooh', w/mattress, blue. \$40. 320-764-2649.
- Baby swing, jumper, portable crib, other baby misc. 320-848-6833.

- 1976 Crestliner, 15', Tri-Hull, 6.5hp Mercury, no troller; Green Lake. 763-475-1551.
- Bedroom set, twin, solid maple, 3-pc. \$175. 320-292-9502.
- Schweiss snow blower, 8', double auger. 320-877-7378.
- Firewood piles & logs, oak-sawn. 320-693-2766.
- Kerosene heater, mantle-style, w/gas can. \$30. 320-398-2774.
- Sun Tunnel skylight, 14", in box. \$100. 320-857-2883.
- Dirt Devil vacuum, bagless, swivel glide vision, 12-amp. \$20. 320-857-2883.
- Jacobsen snow blower, heavy-duty, 2-stage, 8hp, 26". \$235/BO. 320-453-8963.
- Icing/Claire's Boutique gift card (\$24.43 value). \$19. 320-221-0288.
- LB White LP heater, portable. 320-275-2493.
- Werner fiberglass ladder, 32', like new. \$250. 320-275-2493.
- Rossi .38 caliber Special handgun, new cond. \$325. 320-398-2655.
- Hardwood & softwood, 2-1/2 cords. Make offer. 320-275-2445.
- G-max motorcycle helmet, XL, black, visor, never used. \$80. 320-243-3984.
- Green fruit jars w/zinc lids; old glass root beer bottles. 320-693-2707.
- LP tank, 100 #. \$69. 320-221-1157.
- Fish house heaters. \$20-\$30. 320-221-1157.
- Mirror, wooden-framed, 47x26. \$20/BO. 320-398-3361.
- Wooden table, 30 sq. in. x 30" tall. \$20/BO. 320-398-3361.
- Bobcat 643, 3066 hours, w/bucket. \$6500. 320-699-0875.
- Lake Osakis lot, level, 2BR, 1-1/2 garage, boathouse, upgrades. 320-275-2568.
- Fischer Price Wild Adventures, w/vehicle/animals/cards that talk. \$25. 320-275-9431.
- Jazz/ballet tap shoes, sizes 7, 6-1/2 & 3-1/2, like new. \$5 ea. 320-275-9431.
- Location #04-16-401
- Disney plush stuffed toys- \$5 & \$10; Beanie Babies- \$1 ea. 320-275-9431.
- Firestone tire, 10-ply, LT245/75R16, like new. 320-583-9315.

For Sale - Agricultural

- Two roosters. \$5 ea. 320-693-4297.
- John Deere 7100 planter, 12x30. 320-877-7378.
- Hay bales: grass alfalfa/straw/cornstalk. 320-693-2766.
- BRO7 spring wheat seed & Rockford seed oats. 320-693-2766.
- Finishing mower, 3-pt., 72". \$850/BO. 612-961-5847.

For Sale - Automotive

- 1985 Chevrolet mini bus, 350, exc. tires. \$895/BO. 320-220-3631.
- 2008 Saturn Outlook XE, FWD, 3.6L, elec. start. \$13,500. 320-693-6241.
- 2009 Chevrolet Silverado, 4WD, ext. cab, 83K mi., nice extras, very nice. \$17,999. 320-275-4558.
- 1991 Ford Ranger 150 pickup, topper, 4WD, air, manual trans. 320-764-5085.
- 1994 Ford F150, 4WD auto, 5.0 V8, reg. cab, 182K mi. 320-857-2527.
- 2007 Chevrolet Cobalt LT, 5-speed, 2-dr. coupe, sunroof, spoiler, 63K mi. \$8750. 320-275-2568.

Wanted

- Artificial Christmas tree, at least 6'-1/2" to 8' tall, good shape. 320-693-9209.
- Rim, 24"x9", for Allis Chalmers C. 320-275-3906.
- Tandem disk, 8' or 9', on rubber, hydraulic. 320-593-8189.
- Silo/grain bin ladder. 320-894-5976.
- Plow, 3-pt; disk, 3-pt. 320-764-6671.
- Calves, 150-200 lbs.; goats; sheep. 320-764-6671.
- LP tank, 100 lb. 320-583-9315.
- Exercise ball/stability ball and videos. 320-293-8770.

Giveaway

- Two female cats, 6 mos. old. 320-693-4297.
- Treadmill. 320-693-7798.

Services

- J Austin Construction~pole buildings, concrete, shingle/steel roofing, lic. & insured. 320-492-6364.
- Larry's Barber & Style~master barber, 213 N Sibley-Litch. Tues-Sat 8-5:30. 320-693-2421.
- Bookkeeping/payroll services and sales tax. 612-308-5474.
- Guitar lessons for beginners. \$8/half hr. or \$14/hr. 320-295-3288.

- Perfect Paint, LLC~paint, stain, wallpaper, window cleaning, power washing. 320-275-9173.
- Mumford Sanitation~we're your local, family-owned trash hauler. 800-490-3601.
- Welding/fabrication/ installation of stainless aluminum & steel. 320-764-2861.
- Baril's window coverings~save energy winter/summer. 320-693-2074.
- CD/DVD scratch repair & cleaning. \$2.50/disc. 320-693-3602.
- Git'R Done Handyman, LLC~painting/carpentry/remodel/flooring/sheetrock, fully ins. 320-492-8264.
- Mr Dirt~excavating/landscaping/hauling/trees; also indoor carpentry & more. 320-894-7013.
- Bev's Beauty Salon~hair & tanning, Litch. 320-593-8163.
- Gary Finken's Painting~all interior/exterior finishes, exp. & insured. 612-965-8690/320-593-6879.
- Joe Kelly Construction~for all your concrete needs. 320-286-6394.
- Peterson Furniture Service~stripping/refinishing/ gluing/caning, hardware avail. 320-693-6004.
- Remove home barriers; free assessment for home accessibility; computer drafting. 320-693-7514.
- Handyman jobs: window cleaning, painting, home repair, any jobs you need done. 320-275-3518.
- Bunn Construction Services, LLC~brick/stone/ chimney repairs/ retaining walls. 952-212-7779.

For Rent

- Home, 3BR, 1100' lakeshore, secluded 3 acres, Star Lake. \$600/weekend or \$1200/week. 320-212-5939.
- Modern cabin, furnished, Lake MinnieBelle near Litch, by the week. 952-448-2304.
- 1950 country home, warm 3BR, 1 bath, garage, Loretta area. 763-479-1869.
- Cabin, 3BR, 2 bath, Rice Lake-Paynesville, fun family vacation. 513-827-2942.
- Retail/office/warehouse/ industrial space available, Hutchinson & Cokato. 320-234-3523.
- Twin home at Causeway on Gull, March 24-31, 2012, Gull Lake. \$100/night. 320-693-6352.
- Office/retail space, Sibley Avenue-Litch. 320-221-0139.
- Storage~Litchfield, concrete floor, boats/ campers/cars, etc. 320-221-1157.

Find your location number

Win \$10 credit on your next bill!



Four location numbers have been hidden within this Pioneer. If you find your number and claim it by calling Meeker Cooperative by March 1, you will have \$10 credited to your account!

Good Luck!