



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

BY THE **COMMUNITY,**  
FOR THE **COMMUNITY**  
October is National Co-op Month.

**W**hen you think of October, certain things naturally come to mind, like pumpkins, Halloween, and beautiful fall foliage. But October is notable for another reason — it's National Co-op Month! This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including Harrison Rural Electrification Association, celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service or does so at a very high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

Similar to how Harrison REA was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are conveners for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. Harrison's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who help set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to the position by neighbors like you.

We know our members (that's you!) have a valuable perspective. That's why we are continually seeking your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels, or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a firsthand perspective on local priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as high-speed broadband, community solar programs, equipment and technology upgrades, and electric vehicle programs.

Another feature that sets our co-op apart from a traditional utility is one of our core principles, "Concern for Community." Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

We hope you will think of Harrison REA as more than your energy provider. We're also a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you — because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community.





Michael Griffith  
GIS SPECIALIST

## It's canning season!

**H**ey everyone! It's that time of year when the weather starts to cool off and your gardens stop producing. If you made the mistake of planting too much (like I did that one year — so many tomatoes!), don't let it rot! Why not preserve as much as you can by canning at home? It may seem daunting and time

consuming, but it's a labor of love, and you will be thankful to have some fresh, homemade food during winter.

With a few items and some time you can get to cooking up batches of spaghetti sauce, ketchup, chili, jam, jelly, or whatever else your heart desires. You will need a few items to start though. The most common items are:

- Canning jars and lids
- Canning funnel
- A nice, large ladle
- Jar lifter
- Bubble remover (chopsticks or similar will do)
- Water bath canner (or if you want to get crazy, a pressure canner)

Sometimes you can buy these as a kit (check online) or you can pick up each piece separately.

If you're unsure about the process, there are many great resources on the web on how to perform the process. It may seem intimidating at first, but once you get the hang

of it, you'll be hooked! My wife is an avid canner, and I always complained because I had to do a lot of the grunt work of preparation

Next grab some recipes and spend a Saturday in the kitchen cooking up a storm! Did you know that the USDA has a full book on how to properly preserve (can) your food? It's available online here: [https://nchfp.uga.edu/publications/usda/INTRO\\_HomeCanrev0715.pdf](https://nchfp.uga.edu/publications/usda/INTRO_HomeCanrev0715.pdf). There are also multiple sites online that give many delicious recipes!

Once you're finished with the process and are relaxing, just listen for the "ping" of the jar lids sealing! It's music to my ears — the sound of a job well done and the knowledge that I'll have some great food sitting in a jar, just waiting to come out!

### HOME-CANNED APPLE PIE FILLING RECIPE

Ingredients:	2 teaspoons salt
12 cups sugar	5 quarts water
2¼ cups Clear Jel	6 tablespoons lemon juice
1 teaspoon nutmeg	12 quarts of apples, peeled, cored, and chopped
4 teaspoons cinnamon	

Mix first five ingredients together in a large stock pot. Stir in water and bring to a boil over medium heat. Add lemon juice and apples. Stir well.

Fill clean jars, leaving half an inch of headspace. Wipe the rim of each jar before capping with new lids and clean rings. Process in a water bath canner for 25 minutes.

Makes 14 quarts; one quart jar fills a 9-inch pie shell.



# Is your home assistant draining energy?

Have you ever wanted to turn off the lights, listen to the news, or order food by simply using your voice? That is the power a home assistant can provide. These handy products have made their way into many homes across the country since the first smart speaker became available in late 2014. By the end of 2018, there were 66.4 million users of smart home assistants or smart home speakers in the U.S.

One in four Americans now owns a smart speaker, and 40% of those people have more than one smart speaker in their homes. The most popular smart speaker is the Amazon Echo, although Google Home products are selling at a rapid rate and even taking over some of the market share from Amazon. Other brands of smart speakers include Apple's HomePod, the Sonos One, and the JBL Link 10, although none of them are nearly as popular as the Amazon or Google products.

These smart speakers can truly act as assistants, whether by helping you set reminders, establishing routine commands, or informing you of today's top stories. They include additional functions, like helping you order products online or playing music — they can even tell you a joke! The Google Home starts at about \$129, and the Amazon Echo starts at about \$180. However, there are smaller, more basic versions of each. The Amazon Echo Dot starts at \$25, and the Google Home Mini starts at \$49.

As smart speakers become more prevalent, you may be wondering if these products impact your energy bills. Tests have been conducted to see how much power a smart speaker uses, including different modes of use, like when the assistant is on standby mode or listening to a command. Moderate-level actions like playing music at full volume have also been tested.

The Amazon Echo speaker uses 3 watts of electricity while on standby, and if it were left on standby mode for one

year, the total cost would only be about \$3.15. While moderately active (like telling a joke or playing music at a medium volume), the Amazon Echo uses 4 watts. At the highest power use (like playing music at full volume), the Amazon Echo still only uses 6.6 watts, which is just slightly more than double its standby use, and if used consistently at this level, it would cost \$6.93 for the year. For comparison, the Google Home uses slightly less energy than the Amazon Echo at 2 watts while in standby mode, saving you about \$1 a year in total energy costs.

As you can see, the cost of using smart speakers is minimal, and the difference in prices between available products and their abilities is still relatively small. There are plenty of reasons to buy a smart speaker, and the additional cost to your energy bill should not stop you from getting one.



The Amazon Echo Plus is one of the most popular smart speakers available on the market today. Photo credit: Amazon



# HARRISON RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION LOCAL PAGES



## October is National Co-op Month.

Electric co-ops are proud to power more than 20 million American homes, businesses, farms, and schools in 48 states.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heating requires more energy than any other system in your home, typically making up about 42% of your energy bill. With proper equipment maintenance and upgrades like additional insulation and air sealing, you can save about 30% on your energy bill.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



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