



MARCH 2025

# URECC NEWSLETTER



## Get prepared for spring storms ahead!

Spring is here, bringing warmer weather and outdoor fun. But with it comes the potential for severe storms. Upshur Rural Electric Co-Op crews are ready to respond to power outages, taking precautions when working on downed lines.

Stay safe by preparing for storms and outages. The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends these steps:

- Stock a three-day supply of non-perishable food, water, and essentials.
- Ensure you have sanitation supplies like soap and hand sanitizer.
- Keep a stocked First Aid kit and check prescriptions.
- Have flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener, and a battery-powered radio.
- Store emergency supplies in one easy-to-access place.

If power goes out, turn off major appliances to prevent damage and overloading circuits. Leave one light on to know when power is restored. For portable generators, follow safety instructions and use them correctly.

Listen to local news, NOAA Weather Radio, and check URECC's Facebook page for updates. Always stay clear of downed power lines and flooded areas.

Prepare now to reduce stress during storms. Sign up for NOAA alerts and follow us on Facebook for restoration updates. Report outages through SmartHub or call 903-680-2100.

While we hope for calm weather, storm preparedness is our best defense.

**-Upshur Rural Electric Co-Op**

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

March is the ideal time to service your cooling system before summer. Regular maintenance, like cleaning filters and checking refrigerant levels, boosts efficiency, reduces energy bills, and prevents costly repairs. Scheduling in spring also ensures quicker access to technicians. Keep your home cool and energy-efficient all summer long.

## UTILITY SCAM AWARENESS TIP OF THE MONTH

Beware of fake utility websites designed to steal your information. Always type the official web address directly into your browser and look for "https://" and a padlock icon for security. If you're unsure, call your utility's official number from your bill to verify details. Stay alert to avoid fraud.



June 9-13, 2025  
East Texas Baptist University



## Sign up for East Texas Rural Electric Youth Seminar today!



Each year, Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative teams up with 8 other East Texas co-ops to sponsor ETREYS. URECC is sending 10 lucky students from its service area to ETREYS—all expenses paid!

At ETREYS, students dive into workshops, fun activities, and inspiring sessions with speakers from all fields, including national celebrities and athletes. Plus, they have a chance to compete for thousands in scholarship funds!

**Deadline to apply: March 28th visit [urecc.coop/etreys](http://urecc.coop/etreys) for the application.**

URECC 2025 ANNUAL  
MEETING SET FOR  
THURSDAY, APRIL 3RD  
REGISTRATION OPENS  
AT 11:30 AND THE  
MEETING KICKS OFF  
AT 1 PM.



## Irish Soda Bread

### Ingredients:

- 3 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for dusting
- 1 cup whole-wheat graham flour
- 2 ½ teaspoons coarse salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 4 tablespoons cold unsalted butter, cut into small pieces
- 1 ⅔ cups buttermilk



### Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 350°F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- In a large bowl, whisk together flours, salt, baking soda, and baking powder.
- Blend in butter until the mixture resembles small peas. Stir in buttermilk until it just holds together.
- Shape dough into a 7-inch dome and transfer to the baking sheet.
- Dust top with flour and score a 3/4-inch-deep cross on top.
- Bake for 1 hour 20 minutes, rotating halfway through, until golden brown and a cake tester comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack.