



(Cut Here)

Blue Cheese Stuffed Vidalia Onion

Recipe from Georgia Grown



Ingredients

- 4 medium Vidalia onions, peeled, top and bottom cut off
- 4 cloves roasted garlic
- ¼ cup blue cheese or gorgonzola, crumbled
- Salt & pepper
- Worcestershire sauce
- Hot sauce

Directions

Preheat grill or oven to 350 degrees. Using a small ice cream scoop or melon baller, scoop center out of onions, making a 1 – 1 ½ inch cavity. Reserve scooped onion for another use. Season cavity with salt & pepper. Put one roasted garlic clove and one tablespoon blue cheese in each cavity. Drizzle a few drops of Worcestershire and hot sauce over blue cheese. Wrap each onion in aluminum foil, gathering foil on top, forming a pouch. Grill over indirect heat or bake for 45 – 60 minutes or until soft. Unwrap and serve hot. Serves 4.



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Michele Hutchins, Editor

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"OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE"

Annual Meeting Scheduled for September 11

In accordance with Bylaw Article III, Meetings of the Members, Section 3.01, the Annual Meeting of Okefenokee Rural Electric Membership Corporation, will be held Saturday, September 11, 2021, at the Brantley County High School in Nahunta, Georgia.

Prior Notice Required to Gain Floor for more than Five Minutes at Annual Meeting

In accordance with Bylaw Article III, Section 3.08, the deadline is August 27, 2021 at 5 p.m. to submit requests to gain the floor at the Co-op's annual meeting. Requests may be made by contacting Kimi Harris at OREMC's headquarters office in Nahunta, Georgia, (800) 262-5131, extension 1111.

OREMC Nominating Committee Report

In accordance with Bylaw Article IV, Section 4.05, a Nominating Committee was appointed by the Board of Directors to prepare a list of nominations for directors to serve the districts that are due for re-election at the September 11 annual meeting of the cooperative. A meeting of the Nominating Committee was held at the headquarters office of the co-op on April 13, 2021. Nominations made by the nominating committee at that time are as follows:

- District 1 - Baker County (Florida) Wayne Combs
- District 4 - Middle Brantley County (Georgia) Craig Morgan
- District 5 - West Brantley & Ware counties (Georgia) Jimmy Woodard

Credentials and Elections Committee Appointed

In accordance with Bylaw Article III, Section 3.06, Okefenokee REMC's Board of Directors has appointed a Credentials and Elections Committee to establish the validity of petition of nomination and to verify qualifications of the candidates. Members of the appointed Committee are:

Bobby Griffin
5612 Lauramore Rd.
Maccleeny, FL 32063

Eugene L. Drawdy
15901 Hwy. 32E
Hortense, GA 31543-3731

Jimmy Crews
1401 Lee Rd.
Waycross, GA 31503-2953

Patricia Bryant
172 Jim Bryant Road
Folkston, GA 31537-7324

Walter E. Josselyn, III
PO Box 5793
St. Marys, GA 31558-5793

R. Neil Hampton
P.O. Box 455
Callahan, FL 32011-0455

Jack Wilson
242 Monsie Rd.
Nahunta, GA 31553

Craig C. Brack
863 Hickory Bluff Drive
Waverly, GA 31565-2600

Michael Fairman
821 Pennick Rd.
Brunswick, GA 31525

In addition to establishing the validity and qualification of nominees, the committee will establish and oversee voting procedures.

OREMC Credentials and Elections Committee Report

In accordance with the bylaws of Article III, Section 3.06, Okefenokee REMC's Board of Directors has appointed a Credentials and Elections Committee to establish the validity of petition of nominations and to verify qualifications of the candidates. A meeting of the Committee was held at the headquarters office of the co-op on May 17, 2021 to validate all nominations. Nominations made by the nominating committee are as follows:

- District 1 - Baker County (Florida) Wayne Combs
- District 4 - Middle Brantley County (Georgia) Craig Morgan
- District 5 - West Brantley & Ware counties (Georgia) Jimmy Woodard

The validity of all nominees has been determined by the Credentials and Election Committee.

Elections of Directors

In accordance with bylaws adopted by Okefenokee REMC members, any contested election held to fill the positions of directors with expiring terms will be made through mail-in balloting. The procedure of mail voting is described in Article IV, Section 4.03 Manner of Voting and Election of Directors, Section 4.06 Ballots, Section 4.07 Distribution of Ballots, and Section 4.08 Conduct of Election. For complete copy of OREMC Corporate Bylaws go to our website: oremc.com.

"You don't always need a plan. Sometimes you just need to breathe, trust, let go, and see what happens."
-Mandy Hale

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Okefenokee Rural Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U. S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S. W., Washington, D. C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.



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Straight Talk on Solar

Photo by Ansley Shaye Photography

Solar power is taking center stage as a powerful renewable energy resource that has many electric consumers considering going green, going off the grid and hoping to save money on their energy costs by installing solar at home. To help consumer-members better understand their solar options, OREMC Member Service Representative Dewayne Johns candidly addresses some of the common misconceptions about residential solar, explains the Cooperative Solar alternative and the amount of solar already in OREMC's power supply mix.

Why am I still paying an OREMC light bill?

"That is the question," Johns says. Time and again after a consumer-member has installed residential solar on their rooftop or in their yard they are surprised to still be receiving an OREMC bill. He says, "As we are working with our members who initiate an Interconnection Agreement with us and explain how it works, we review the fact that OREMC will continue to serve as their standby power supplier at night or on cloudy/rainy days when the sun doesn't shine and their solar panels don't produce electricity. The cost of having ready power is the monthly Basic Facilities Charge of \$35, plus the cost of any kWh used."

I thought OREMC was going to pay me for power?

This is another big misconception says Johns, "I can't tell you how many times I've been told by a member that their solar installer told them not only would they no longer have to pay OREMC, but that OREMC would be paying them for power. Should any member generate more electricity than they consume, yes, OREMC will pay them the current wholesale rate of three cents per kWh. But as noted above, the reality is all most all our residential solar members rely on standby power from OREMC as they don't produce enough to power their daily needs, and they don't have storage capacity."

Installing solar will save me money.

"Saving money is the first thing most members tell me they want to do when considering a residential

solar installation," Johns continues. "If using renewable energy and reducing your carbon footprint is your primary reason for installing solar, it might make sense to do so. But if saving money is your primary reason for installing solar, keep in mind the words from retired CEO Hill Bentley of Tri-County EMC, 'Sunshine is free. Solar is not.' Not only will you continue to have a bill for OREMC to ensure you have standby power, now you will also have monthly payments on your solar equipment and any storage capacity you might purchase. It could be up to 20 years before you see a return on investment."

Well, at least I'll have power if the OREMC system is down!

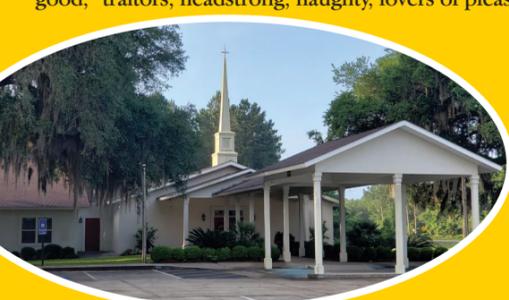
Not realistically, explains Johns, "Solar power is DC or direct current power. It has to be converted to AC or alternating current power to be utilized in your home. That's where your inverter comes in. The inverter needs power to operate. If the sun isn't shining, it won't work. If you don't have back up batteries, usually solar charged, or other external supplemental generator, it won't work."

I'm going to go completely off the grid.

"Anyone can absolutely go off the grid, but doing so is a complete lifestyle change, not just putting solar panels on your roof," notes Johns. "Storage capacity and supplemental power are both going to be necessary to charge the batteries that run the inverter, regardless of the weather. And if a member decides not to have an Interconnection Agreement, then OREMC is no longer there as standby power/backup generator."

Cooperative Solar is an alternative to residential solar.

"If you want the benefits of solar but are rightfully concerned about the costs to install, have restrictive (continued inside)



Church of the Month Marshes of Glynn Baptist Church

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Service 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study 6 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Pastor Darrell Joiner

3780 U.S. Highway 82 • Brunswick, GA 31523
912-261-9014

To nominate your church, contact Dewayne Johns at 1-800-262-5131 Ext. 1143 or email dewayne.johns@oremc.com.

GA0920B

OREMC Youth Award Winners Announced

Okefenokee REMC is pleased to announce its **2021 OREMC Scholarship winners**. This is the 28th year OREMC has awarded ten, \$2,000 scholarships to students residing in one of the eight counties it serves—Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Glynn, Ware and Wayne counties in Georgia, and Baker and Nassau counties in Florida.

Meredith Boswell is the daughter of Kathleen and Mark Boswell and is senior at Camden County High School. Meredith is a member of Key Club International where she has served as treasurer and president, and National BETA club. Her honors include Microsoft Office Specialist, Governors Honors Program, Georgia Certificate of Merit Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, and honor awards for both AP U.S. History and AP Human Geography. Meredith is also a volunteer and mentor at Camden County Public Library. She plans to attend Georgia Tech and major in science, then obtain a master's degree to develop skills for advancing diplomacy. Her goals are to work with the U.S. State Department and eventually become U.S. Secretary of State.

Cecilia "Sally" Brock is the daughter of Liane and Nathan Brock and is a senior at Glynn Academy. She is a member of Student Council, varsity and travel soccer, Pirates of the Main Service Club, Glynn Academy Math team, and Frederica Academy Summer programs. Sally has interned for an architecture firm as well as Wiregrass Studio. She is Student Council Student Life Senator, and captain of the varsity soccer team. Her honors include National AP Scholar with Distinction, UGA Certificate of Merit, Wofford College Scholar, Math & Science Expo 1st place champion. Sally will be attending either the University of Virginia or Georgia Tech to study architecture with plans of owning her own architecture firm in the future.

Makayla Cross is the daughter of Debbie Cross of Folkston where she is a senior at Charlton County High School. Makayla is a member of FFA, FCCLA, BETA

club and One Act. Makayla serves as parliamentarian for Charlton County High School FFA. She also received the Indian Chief Award in FFA for being the most involved member and was named a 2021 Walter Harrison Scholarship Finalist. Makayla will be attending Valdosta State University to obtain her bachelor's in nursing.

Aaron Dino is a senior at Camden County High School and is the son of Dr. Daniel and Apple Dino. Aaron is a member of National Honors Society, BETA club, competition marching band, National Science Bowl team where he serves as captain, Camden County High School Band, National Guild of Piano teachers, GA Music Teachers Association, National Federation of Music Clubs. His honors include U.S. Presidential Scholar Program, Georgia Governors Honors, National Merit Award, Georgia Tech scholar finalist, Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award, 1st Place American Mathematic Competition, STAR Student, and National AP Scholar. Aaron is also a freelance pianist and percussionist, and he is a volunteer at Southeast Georgia Health System. He plans to attend either Georgia Tech or Emory University to study the effects music has on the brain.

Tessa Dixon is the daughter of Brandi Dixon and Alvin Dixon. She is a senior at Brantley County High School. Tessa is a member of FFA, FBLA, BETA, Lady Herons soccer team, and Southside Baptist Youth. She has served as a junior class officer, FFA secretary, chaplain, and president, as well as FBLA vice president. Tessa has won the

Young Georgia Authors award twice, she is a member of the Governors Honors Program, Georgia Merit Scholar, OREMC Washington Youth Tour Delegate, Student of the Month, voted Most Intellectual and is a Forestry and Natural Resources scholarship recipient. She was also named a 2021 Walter Harrison Scholarship winner. Tessa will be attending ABAC to earn her degree in wildlife management or natural resources and then transferring to UGA to obtain her master's.

Abigail Fahlgren is a senior at West Nassau High School. She is the daughter of Kimberly and Steve Fahlgren. Abigail is a member of FBLA, West Nassau Great Decisions Club, Nassau County 4-H, West Nassau JROTC Raider Competition team and the Williams Syndrome Foundation Christmas Party. Her honors include FBLA 1st Place Job Interview District Champion in 2019 and 2020 and JROTC Ribbon winner in 2019 and 2020. Abigail will be attending the University of North Florida to obtain her nursing degree, then pursuing her goal of being a nurse practitioner and helping fill health needs in the rural U.S.

Manav Patel is the son of Kundan Patel and is a senior at Ware County High School. Manav is a member of National Honors Society, Pioneer Academics, BETA, Waycross Bank & Trust Jr. Board of Directors, Youth Assembly, Technology Student Association, FBLA, Model U.N. and the Golden Gator Marching Band. Manav has served as president of BETA and vice president of FBLA. His honors include Questbridge College Prep Scholar, Quest for Excellence Humanities Award, Questbridge National College Match Finalist, AP Scholar with Distinction, MOS Certified, and Voice of Democracy District 2nd place. Manav plans to attend the University of Pennsylvania to study economics. His goal is to have a future U.S. President appoint him to the Council of Economic Advisors.

Brayan Rios is the son of Jacinto and Mary Belle Rios and he is a senior at Brantley County High School. Brayan is a member of FBLA, HOSA and the BCHS soccer team. He also serves as social media chair, reporter

and treasurer for FBLA and serves as treasurer for HOSA. Brayan is also a volunteer at the Okefenokee Humane Society and is very involved at his church. Brayan honors include Student of the Month, 5th Place at SGSC Math Tournament and being named a 2021 Walter Harrison Scholarship Finalist. He is also the Valedictorian for Brantley County High School Class of 2021. Brayan plans to attend Emory University and become a physician.

Savannah Russell is a senior at Hilliard Middle-Senior High School and the daughter of Frederick and Karen Russell. She is a member of BETA, National Honors Society, Journalism Staff, Chic-fil-A Leadership Academy, FCA, Student Government, Flag Football, and the youth group at North Jacksonville Baptist Church. Savannah's honors include University of U.S. Essay Contest winner, Outstanding Senior, AP Scholar, FSCJ President's List, Northeast Florida photography winner. She has served as Junior Class President, Senior Class Historian, Student Ambassador, Student Government Editor, Historian for both BETA and Honors Society. Savannah plans to enroll at the University of Florida to pursue her degree in advertising or public relations. Her goal is to work in public relations or social media marketing.

Benjamin Smith is a senior at Baker County High School and the son of Frederick and Andrea Smith. Benjamin is a member of the Brainbow! Academic Team, Hi-Q academic Team, Youth Power, BETA club, Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society and History Club. He has served as co-captain for the Academic Team. Benjamin's honors include Sunshine State Scholar, Excellence in History DAR Award, Straight A Banquet, Perfect score on PERT Math and lettering in Academic Team. His plans are to attend the University of North Florida and double major in history and political science. His goal is to work on a political commentary show.

Youth Tour Delegates

OREMC has selected five students as **2021 Youth Tour delegates**. Typically, they join delegates from Georgia's 40 other electric membership cooperatives for an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., in June for the Youth Tour Leadership Experience. However, the national tour was once again cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, OREMC is hosting a week-long Georgia cultural heritage and history tour that will take the students across the state.



Amelia Dyal is a junior at Hilliard Middle-Senior High and the daughter of Adam and Stephanie Dyal. Amelia is a member of BETA, FBLA, and National Honor Society. She plans to attend college and earn her degree. Her goals are still undecided at this time.

Jesse Harrell is a junior at Brantley County High School and is the daughter of Margaret Harrell. Jesse is involved in a leadership group and serves as a junior class officer. She is a Governor Honors Program semifinalist and was also a nominee for social studies in 10th grade. Jesse plans to attend college with the goal of becoming a writer.



Emily Hutchins is the daughter of Clint and Michele Hutchins and is a junior at Glynn Academy. Emily plays the violin and is a member of the Golden Isles Youth Orchestra (GIYO) where she is the Principal, Violin II. She has also performed with the GIYO Chamber Ensemble, interned with GIYO

Symphonette and often plays at St. Williams Catholic Church. Emily is a member of BETA Club and National Honors Society. Emily plans to attend college and major in geology.

Corbin Mobley is the son of Bradley and Jennifer Mobley and a junior at Brantley County High School. Corbin is a member of FBLA, TSA, Audio Visual Club, Skills USA, and BETA. Corbin is also an Eagle Scout. He plans to attend college and earn a degree with a goal of working in the film industry.

Rachael Walters is the daughter of Michael and Tonya Walters and is a junior at Glynn Academy. Rachael is the President and Founder of Ethnology Club, and a member of the Environmental Club, Interact Club, YELP Leadership Team and Model U.N. She is also a member of the Glynn Academy track, cross country and soccer teams. She has won several awards for athletics including 3x State Champion cross country runner. Rachael plans to attend college, her goals are undecided at this time.



"Pay Where You Shop" Bill Payment Option

OREMC consumer-members have a new bill payment option—paying cash on your OREMC bill where you shop. Authorized payment locations include stores such as Dollar General, Family Dollar, CVS Pharmacy and Walgreens, accepting cash payments only.

The three-step process is simple.

- First, OREMC consumer-members need to have a barcode. That barcode can be found on the back of their printed bill or retrieved online with their OREMC account number at oremc.sedccheckout.com.
- Next, on the same website, search for the nearest authorized payment locations.
- Then, present the OREMC barcode to the cashier at the register and pay cash for the desired amount on the OREMC bill. The payment is credited immediately to the OREMC member account. It is important to note that a \$1.50 convenience fee is charged at the time of transaction.

The new "pay where you shop" is just one of the many payment options OREMC members have including: auto-pay, bank draft, credit/debit card, e-check, by mail, at a district office or PrePay. For more information on all OREMC bill payment options, including links for finding authorized payment locations or to download an account specific barcode visit online at oremc.com/payment-options. OREMC consumer-members with questions or needing additional information can call Customer Service at 800-262-5131.

PAY YOUR BILL WHERE YOU SHOP



You can now make a cash payment on your OREMC bill at the register at participating retailers near you. It is a **FAST** and **CONVENIENT** option for paying your electric bill.



Visit oremc.com

For complete details. Service fees apply.

Straight Talk on Solar *Continued from Front*

homeowners' covenants or are a renter, Cooperative Solar is a viable alternative," says Johns. OREMC has three community solar fields that can produce two megawatts of power. OREMC members can subscribe to blocks of power—typically producing 120-200 kWh per month—choosing the right amount of solar offset based on their average household usage. The cost per block is \$20 per month. Every month the solar energy generated from a member's share of the total capacity is credited back to their account.

Remember, solar power is dependent on the sun.

Johns notes, "Members need to keep in mind that solar output—residential or Cooperative—will vary from month to month based on the position of the sun, the time of year and the number of cloudy/rainy days. The biggest difference between the two solar options is that Cooperative Solar costs significantly less, does not have any ongoing maintenance costs and still enables members to access renewable energy

and invest in the environment."

More solar in OREMC's power supply mix.

Johns says it is also worth noting the OREMC's total solar capacity in its power supply mix has increased with the completion of Green Power's 200-megawatt (MWAC) solar portfolio that includes three utility-scale projects in southern Georgia. Green Power EMC is the renewable energy provider for 38 Georgia Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs), including OREMC. Green Power's total solar capacity provides enough low-cost, renewable energy to serve more than 35,000 EMC households. As a clean energy source, the solar portfolio's environmental offset is equivalent to more than 350,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually.

Have questions?

Whether you want to learn more about Cooperative Solar or are interested in installing residential solar at your home, OREMC is here to help. Please contact Member Services Representative Dewayne Johns at 800-262-5131 ext. 1143 or via email at dewayne.johns@oremc.com. You can also download all the necessary forms and documentation required for interconnecting residential solar to the OREMC distribution system at oremc.com/rooftop-solar.