

News Release
from State Rural Electrification Committee

A record number of Illinois farm homes will receive electricity for the first time during 1938, according to estimates prepared by the State Rural Electrification Committee, Springfield. The Committee estimates that approximately 14,000 farms will be electrified during the year as the result of activities of farmer-owned power cooperatives and privately-owned utility companies.

Approximately 48,000 of the 231,000 farms in Illinois were receiving electric service on January 1, 1938, the Committee said. Of this number, 11,400 farms were electrified during 1937 by cooperatives and utility companies. The Committee announced that utility companies added approximately 10,000 new farm customers in 1937, while cooperative organizations began service to another 1,400 customers.

An average of 10,000 farms have been electrified each year since January 1, 1936, when rural line construction was resumed following a six-year period during which few Illinois farms were electrified. The percentage of farms receiving electric service rose from 13 per cent at the end of 1935 to 21 per cent at the end of 1937, the Committee said.

The Committee estimates that farmer-owned cooperatives which are building rural electric lines with money borrowed from the federal Rural Electrification Administration will

begin service to 7,000 customers during 1938. Another 7,000 farms will be added to the lines of private utility companies, the Committee said.

The record-breaking increase in electrified farms during 1938 will bring the total in Illinois to an estimated 62,000 according to the State Committee. This will raise the percentage of farms electrified to approximately 27 per cent, an increase of more than 50 per cent over the total of 29,000 farms electrified at the end of 1935.