

IHRY NEWS

April 2019

CONTACT US:

DEVILS LAKE
701.662.5027

HILLSBORO
701.636.2540

HOPE
800.726.7929

MAHNOMEN
218.935.5830

MCVILLE
701.322.5553

TOWNER
701.537.5942

WEST FARGO
701.492.2228

WWW.IHRYINS.COM

Let us know how we are doing by providing a review on Google or Facebook!

Seven Ways To Improve Your Finances During Financial Literacy Month

Article provided by *Safeco*.

April is tax season, so a lot of people are thinking about their finances these days. But if you're like most people, you're probably thinking in the short term: **What's my refund going to be—or how much do I owe? And what is that going to do to my monthly budget?**

It's good to be thinking about those things. It's also important to look at the bigger picture. Financial Literacy Month, which is also in April, gives you the perfect chance to do just that. Surveys have showed that an alarming number of Americans lack even basic financial knowledge; in an era when we collectively have trillions of dollars in consumer debt, and many people live paycheck to paycheck, that can be a recipe for disaster. But it doesn't have to be that way! This Financial Literacy Month website, created by nonprofit credit-counseling firm Money Management International, features tools and resources to help you understand your finances better and build a bright financial future. In that spirit, we've come up with seven tips that can help you become more savvy with your money. Some are easy things you can do today. Others might take a little more work. But all are worth the effort!

1. **Make your saving automatic.** It's important to have money set aside for emergencies—and to save for retirement. But once your paycheck hits your account, it can be a lot easier to just spend it all. The solution? Schedule automatic transfers to a separate account for your emergency fund, your retirement plan, or both. Start with something like 10%. You might even find that you don't miss it.
2. **Pay your credit cards off every month.** If you can't do this now, pay them down until you can. One popular way is the "snowball" method, which in a nutshell, works like this: Make only the minimum payment on all of your debts—except the smallest one. Put as much money as you can toward that. When the smallest debt is paid off, repeat the process and continue until everything is paid!
3. **Check your tax withholding.** People love getting big tax refunds, but that really means you've loaned the government your money over the course of the year—interest-free. For example, instead of a \$2,500 refund

in April or May, you could have more than \$200 extra in your paycheck every single month. Wouldn't that be nice?

- 4. Don't throw away free money.** Who would do that? Well, you—if your employer offers a match on your retirement savings and you don't contribute enough to get the full amount. Say your company matches the first 3% of salary you contribute to a 401(k); you should save as much as you can, but at the very least, you'd want to save that 3%.
- 5. Pay less for services.** Are you paying more than you should for cable, internet or your mobile service? Maybe not—but you won't know unless you ask. Often, companies have discounts or special packages available, especially if you're a loyal customer and you haven't been on a promotional deal for a while.
- 6. Consider a credit card that rewards you.** This can be a great way to earn points toward free travel or other rewards, just for buying the things you would buy anyway. Don't spend more than you normally would just to get rewards, though. And remember, if you regularly carry a balance, the rewards probably won't

outweigh the interest you're paying. (Go back to item #2 in our list.)

- 7. Track your spending for a while—and then review it.** You probably spend money on a lot of little things without realizing how much it adds up. Maybe you get takeout for lunch a couple of times a week, or stop for coffee every day on your way to work. Try tracking everything you spend for a month or two. Then, take a look at your habits.

You'll find areas where you can save, likely without even feeling like you're making a sacrifice. Insurance is an important tool for your financial well-being, too. Even though it's easy to think of insuring your car or home as protecting your "stuff," insurance really protects your finances. After all, insurance can't prevent your car from being hit by another driver—but it can pay for the repairs, so that money doesn't come from your pocket.

Take a little time to think about your finances this month, and try one or more of the tips above. As with many things in life, when it comes to money, small steps can have a big impact!

Have you ever wondered what the world would be like without insurance?

A graphic with a blue background showing a view of Earth from space. In the center, there is a dark blue rectangular box with a white border containing the text "A WORLD" in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below this box, the text "WITHOUT INSURANCE?" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

A WORLD
WITHOUT INSURANCE?

Watch this video by the Insurance Information Institute:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=S-BfOwwgLDE



Ihry Insights

Article provided by Curtis Kaufman, Agency Manager
Ihry Insurance

Biofuel: EPA Releases E15 Rule; The Clock is Ticking



- The EPA released a much-anticipated rule to allow year-round E15 sales and to reform the biofuels credits market, with plans to finalize the rule by the start of the summer driving season on June 1.
- Once the proposal is published in the Federal Register, it will launch a 30-day public comment period that ends on April 29.
- The proposal would make E15 “substantially similar” to E10 blends, essentially eliminating the summer driving restriction in some areas of the country.
- For years, the ethanol industry has called on the EPA to equalize the Reid vapor pressure regulations for E10 and E15 during the summer driving season. Because of those requirements, E15 has largely not been available to some wholesale suppliers and retailers during the summer. The industry has contended that adding 5% more ethanol in the summer would actually reduce tailpipe emissions.
- Ethanol increases the RVP, which measures the release of volatile organic compounds into the atmosphere. The RVP for gasoline is the lowest, or most stringent, during the summer months when the weather is hot. E10 currently receives an RVP waiver, which keeps the fuel in compliance with RVP requirements year-round. However, E15 is not given the same waiver, so it can't be sold in the summer.

Rain Select and HeatSelect are back this year with expanded availability and additional intervals and coverage levels to meet your needs!

- RainSelect - guarantee up to 100% of your average rainfall
- HeatSelect - get paid if temperatures are warmer than normal during corn pollination
- Freedom - no exclusions on crops or acres
- Flexibility - choose your crops, acres and weather perils
- Speed - timely payments with no proof of loss or claims process
- Talk with your Ihry agent today to get a quote!



Inspecting Your Home After Winter

Article provided by *Foremost*.

After what felt like an endless winter, everything is slowly starting to thaw out and melt. Spring is one of my favorite times of the year, and as a new homeowner, I am starting to observe new things on my home that I need to inspect, and projects I want to tackle this summer. I purchased my home in the dead of winter with snow piled up on the exterior, so I couldn't fully see everything as much as I would have liked. Now that I have a clear view, it's time to start my spring maintenance checklist and inspect for any damage sustained during winter.

1. **Examine your roof.** Inspect your shingles to see if any blew away or were damaged during winter. Shingles that are loose, cracked or buckled need to be replaced. If you come across any of these issues, call a professional to assess the damage.
2. **Check the gutters.** Grab your gloves and clean out all of the leaves and debris in your gutters and downspouts. Then, inspect your gutters and make sure they aren't sagging. Make sure the downspouts are facing away from the foundation for proper draining.
3. **Inspect your driveway and other areas with concrete.** Look over your driveway and sidewalks for any sign of cracks or movement. If you see any, you can fill them in with a concrete crack filler or silicone caulk.
4. **Check the outside faucets and hoses.** Turn on the water to make sure it's still running properly and



place your thumb over the opening. If this stops the water flow, the water pressure may be too low and one of your pipes may be damaged. Call a professional for further assistance.

5. **Inspect windows and doors.** Check for bent or broken hinges, and any cracks or holes. Depending on how serious the damage is, you can either replace or repair your door. If you have a screen door, you can usually buy a repair kit to fix any holes or tears so bugs can't sneak through. If your windows look good, take the opportunity to wipe down the interior of the window sills if there is any dirt or mold present.
6. **Inspect your deck and fences.** If you have a wooden fence, repair or replace any loose slats or rotted sections. For your deck, look for any signs of water stains or discoloration. Remove any loose or rusty nails, and make sure the railings and stairs are secure.
7. **Run your in-ground sprinkling system.** Turn your sprinklers on to make sure they are working properly. Also look for any leaks or broken sprinkler heads, and readjust them if needed.
8. **Inspect your AC unit.** Clean up any leaves or branches around the cooling unit, and change the filters. If you want a professional cleaning or a tune-up, you can call a qualified heating and cooling contractor.

Good luck and happy spring!



Our Mission

Our mission is to provide superior insurance solutions for our clients to help manage their risk and protect their assets, while maintaining the highest ethical standards of the insurance industry.

Thank you for choosing us for your insurance needs!