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PRAIRIE LAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

PRAIRIE LAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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FROM THE CEO

Reliable Today. Resilient Tomorrow.

Prairie Land Electric Cooperative enters 2026 with a clear and forward-looking theme — **RELIABLE TODAY. RESILIENT TOMORROW.** As we reflect on the past year, this message captures both our current strength and our long-term commitment to the members and communities we serve. The energy landscape is evolving rapidly, with rising costs, increasing demand, and growing system complexity. Even in this environment, **OUR MISSION** remains constant: **TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR MEMBERS BY PROVIDING SAFE, RELIABLE ENERGY SERVICES AND EDUCATION.** As a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative, we focus on long-term value rather than short-term gains. **OUR VISION — TO BE YOUR TRUSTED ENERGY ADVISOR** — guides every decision we make as we work to deliver on our promise of **POWER TO MAKE LIFE BETTER**, today and for the future.

Our work begins with reliability, which remains the foundation of everything we do. In 2025, Prairie Land achieved **99.9% RELIABILITY**, meaning electricity was available nearly all the time when members needed it. Achieving this level of performance requires disciplined planning, strategic investment, and a culture of accountability across our organization. We continue to modernize our system, strengthen our workforce, and invest in technologies that support long-term reliability. These efforts ensure we remain prepared for both everyday operations and unexpected challenges.

As we look beyond our system, we must also navigate the broader regional environment in which we operate. Prairie Land is part of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), a 14-state regional



Kirk Girard

Continued on page 12D ►

POWER LINE ISSUES

Call 800-577-3323 to report outages and other power line issues.

POWER
to make life better



Behind Every Successful Cooperative is an Awesome Office Staff!

**ADMIN PROFESSIONALS DAY:
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026**

This month, we will be celebrating all careers that power Prairie Land's progress. To learn more about the team behind the scenes, follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PLECOOP.

Concern for Community



STORM RESTORATION

Lineworkers repair damaged utility poles (above) in the aftermath of the March 2025 winter storm, working around the clock to restore power and support the community's recovery efforts.



SAFETY POSTERS

Our annual safety poster contest for third graders (above) is one of the key ways we engage with and commit to the youth in our territory.



OK KID'S DAY

Our staff volunteered at the OK Kid's Day held at Prairie Dog State Park in Norton, helping future linemen get a hands-on feel for the trade while teaching electrical safety.



KID'S CAFE

In Norton, employees volunteered to pass out a week's supply of groceries for children at the Kid's Cafe (above).

RODEO

We proudly sponsored and served the meal on "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" night at the Phillipsburg rodeo.



YOUTH TOUR

Each year, high school juniors are offered a chance to win one of four all-expenses-paid trips to Washington, D.C., or Steamboat Springs, Colorado, through the Youth Program Contest.



“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much.”

HELEN KELLER



PARADES

Having lineworkers drive in parades (left) and toss treats creates an opportunity to make special memories with local children.



HIGH VOLTAGE SAFETY DEMOS

Start early and repeat often — our lineworkers appreciate any opportunity to educate the public (right) on the inherent dangers associated with electricity.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

We look forward to helping the communities we serve. Each year, employees purchase gifts for children who participate in the Christmas Blessings program (above) offered through Goddard Place near Penokee.

PRAIRIE LAND WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES

JACOB CRAIN

is originally from Puyallup, Washington, and now lives in Norton, where he serves as our GIS mapping technician. He graduated from



Jacob Crain

Western Washington University. In his free time, Jacob enjoys studying Chinese, hiking and exploring history.

TREY MELTON is from Cuba, Kansas, and works as an apprentice lineman in Concordia. He is a graduate of Manhattan Area Technical College. Outside of work, Trey enjoys hunting



Trey Melton

and spending time at the lake with family and friends.

HUNTER TEEL, a Concordia native, now serves his hometown as an apprentice lineman. He is a graduate of Pratt Community College. In his free time, he enjoys hunting and working on projects in his shop.



Hunter Teel

NICKELL CELEBRATES 5-YEAR WORK ANNIVERSARY



Christy Nickell

CHRISTY NICKELL grew up in Norton but moved to Phoenix, Arizona, after college. About seven years ago, she returned to Norton. She began working at Prairie Land as a member services representative on April 6, 2021, and enjoys getting to know members when they call in to make payments. Christy and her husband, Dave, enjoy spending time with their 11 children, their spouses, and their 14 grandchildren. They love camping at the lake and being out on the boat. Recently, much of their time has been spent remodeling their home. When she can find the time, Christy also enjoys walking, running and reading.

Reliable Today. Resilient Tomorrow. *Continued from page 12A* ▶

grid where costs are shared by all ratepayers in its footprint. Because the grid is interconnected, large energy users and corresponding transmission projects across the region can influence local costs. At the same time, electricity demand continues to rise as high-energy-use industries seek dependable service. When a new business locates within our certified service territory, we are required to serve it — just as we do any home, farm or small business — as our responsibility is the same for every member: to deliver reliable service in line with our mission and regulatory requirements. Communities decide which projects fit their goals, and our role is to ensure that any new infrastructure needed to serve a large load is fully funded by that business. These projects can also help offset regional cost pressures and support rural economies through jobs and investment. Through careful planning and disciplined financial management, we work to meet new demand responsibly while protecting the long-term interests of all Prairie Land members.

Preparing for the future also means strengthening our resilience — the ability to respond and recover quickly when something goes wrong. To support this, our board approved a **FOUR-YEAR, \$36 MILLION WORK PLAN** focused on system modernization. This includes Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) technology that provides real-time visibility, faster outage detection, improved safety and more efficient restoration. We are also upgrading infrastructure across our system, including new tie lines, sub-transmission improvements, and FEMA-supported recloser replacements. Additionally, we have enhanced our facilities, such as the new Smith Center warehouse, which improves material staging and storm response.

Modernizing our system also means ensuring our workforce is prepared for the demands of today's grid. Expanded training yards and a strengthened apprenticeship program ensure our

employees are equipped to work safely and effectively in an increasingly complex electric system.

The March 2025 storm, which caused nearly \$1 million in damage and required replacing almost 160 poles, highlighted the importance of both modern tools and the dedication of our employees. Our crews and staff worked tirelessly through blizzard conditions to restore service and support members. Their commitment, combined with ongoing system improvements, strengthens our ability to serve reliably today and in the future.

Financial strength remains essential to sustaining this work. Prairie Land ended 2025 in a strong position, reinforcing our ability to invest in reliability and resiliency while keeping costs under control. As a cooperative, margins are reinvested into the system and returned to members — not shareholders. In 2025, we returned **\$2.65 MILLION IN CAPITAL CREDITS TO OUR MEMBERS**, including patronage capital from our generation and transmission provider, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation. This strong performance reinforces the principle that financial strength must always serve our members, not the balance sheet. Responsible financial stewardship is not just about numbers; it is about ensuring stability today and sustainability for the future. Every financial decision is made with our members' long-term interests in mind.

Together, these efforts reflect the cooperative difference. Prairie Land exists to serve its members, and that commitment shapes our approach to growth, infrastructure, financial management, and long-term planning. By maintaining reliability as our foundation, strengthening resilience through modernization, and exercising sound financial stewardship, we are positioning Prairie Land to meet both today's needs and tomorrow's challenges.

RELIABLE TODAY. RESILIENT TOMORROW. AND ALWAYS COMMITTED TO SERVING YOU.

READY WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

When the lights go out, lineworkers are ready to answer the call, day or night, to safely restore power and keep our communities moving forward. They take pride in powering the places we call home. Today and every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and commitment.

LINeworker APPRECIATION DAY IS APRIL 13, 2026

