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www.prairielandelectric.com

PRAIRIE LAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

PRAIRIE LAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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POWER LINE ISSUES

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



FROM THE CEO

A Balanced Team for Reliability

The winningest basketball teams in history are ones that are consistent and have players with varying abilities. Some are better at shooting three-pointers, some are best at defense. Having a balanced mix of skills makes the team a powerhouse on the court. The way to keep electricity reliable is a bit like that too.

The power team first requires a foundation of consistent sources that can be put in the game any time they're needed. Having enough "always available" fuel sources like natural gas and coal can ensure consistent power generation.

Just like a team needs different players for different situations, our power grid requires multiple sources to keep the grid running. Relying

solely on one player to win every game is not an effective strategy — if they get injured, you'll likely lose. Similarly, using a single fuel source for electricity generation poses a significant risk to energy reliability. Natural disasters, geopolitical tensions or unforeseen disruptions can severely impact the supply chain of a particular fuel. A diverse mix of energy sources acts as a safeguard, ensuring that the grid remains operational even in the face of unexpected challenges.

A diverse energy mix also enhances grid flexibility by accommodating the intermittent nature of renewable energy



Kirk Girard

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Please join us for the
ANNUAL MEETING
April 9, 2024
Lunch at Noon
Meeting at 12:45p.m.
14935 US HWY 36, NORTON, KS

800.577.3323
www.prairielandelectric.com

POWER
to make life better

As U.S. Farmers Feed the World, We Remind Them About Electrical Safety

As planting season nears, here are some agriculture-related facts from the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF):

- ▶ Each year, one U.S. farm feeds 166 people domestically and abroad. The global population is expected to increase by 2.2 billion by 2050. This means that the world's farmers will have to grow approximately 70% more food than what they produce today.
- ▶ Two million farms dot America's rural landscape, according to the AFBF, and 98% are operated by individuals, families and family-run partnerships or corporations.
- ▶ Eighty-six percent of U.S. agricultural products are produced on family farms or ranches.
- ▶ Americans throw away approximately 25% of the food they buy to eat at home.
- ▶ Women make up 36% of the total number of farm operators in the U.S.; 56% of all farms have at least one female decision-maker.

As farmers return to their fields this spring, Safe Electricity urges all workers to be alert to the dangers of working

near overhead power lines. Follow these safety tips:

- ▶ Determine power line locations before going out into the fields and designate preplanned routes that avoid hazardous areas.
- ▶ Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Be cognizant of tall antennas.
- ▶ Avoid raising the arms of planters or cultivators or raising truck beds near power lines.
- ▶ Do not attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
- ▶ Coming too close to a power line while working can be just as dangerous as contacting one since electricity can arc or "jump" to conducting material or objects.
- ▶ Non-metallic materials, such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay, will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.
- ▶ When grounded wires that stabilize poles, known as guy wires, are broken, they become hazardous. If you hit a guy wire and break it, call the utility to fix it. Do not do it yourself.

- ▶ When it comes to dealing with electrical poles and wires, always call the electric utility.
- ▶ If your equipment contacts a power line, stay in the cab and call 911 or the utility for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives. If leaving the cab is necessary, as in the case of fire, the proper action is to jump — not step — with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Hop away from the area as far as you can, keeping both feet together as you hop. If you are unable to hop, then shuffle with the insides of your feet touching. Don't return to the equipment until the power has been deenergized.

Managers and owners should make sure family members and staff, including seasonal workers, have learned and understand these safety precautions. Dangerous areas need to be thoroughly identified and labeled.

Start each day with a safety meeting to alert everyone to potential hazards and how to avoid them.

For more electrical safety information, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.





GAVIN HUGHES
Smith Center



ISAAC STAMPER
Plainville



BREANNA REEVES
Scandia



QUINN COLES
Clyde

Youth Tour and Leadership Camp Winners

Prairie Land has a long tradition of sponsoring high school juniors for all-expenses-paid trips designed to enrich their leadership potential. Students have benefited from leadership camps in Colorado, youth tours in Washington, D.C., a KEY leadership conference in Topeka and scholarships.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., will take place June 14-20, 2024 and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, is July 12-18, 2024.

The competitors completed a test and wrote an essay to bring to their interviews at the Concordia office or the Norton office on Feb. 11.

GAVIN HUGHES, Smith Center, and **ISAAC STAMPER**, Plainville, will attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. **BREANNA REEVES**, Scandia, and **QUINN COLES**, Clyde, will attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

This is an outstanding opportunity for these students to network with other young leaders, learn about electric cooperatives, practice some engineering and watch our government in action. Congratulations to these impressive young leaders!

A Balanced Team for Reliability *Continued from page 12A*

sources like solar and wind. Think of solar power like a team's inconsistent three-point shooter. It's awesome when the sun is shining bright, but what if it's nighttime or a cloudy day? That's where the other players, like wind, hydro, nuclear, natural gas and coal can step up and keep the team scoring.

Diverse fuel sources contribute to the stability and reliability of the electric grid. The different sources have varying characteristics, including generation patterns, responsiveness and storage capabilities. This diversity allows for a more balanced and resilient energy system that can adapt to fluctuating demand and unforeseen circumstances. Having a mix of these energy sources is like having a team with different skills to handle various situations and scenarios.

A diverse set of energy sources is essential, but that's not the only thing we need to have reliable electricity — or a winning team. Basketball teams are always trying out new plays or training rookies to create a versatile lineup. Similarly, electric cooperatives are constantly innovating to maintain reliability for tomorrow. But creating new ways to make our power sources more efficient and reliable takes time, money and advances in technology that aren't necessarily ready yet.

As we continue to work on the innovations of tomorrow, the key to keeping our electricity reliable right now is ensuring a diverse "team" of fuels. Each one brings something special to the table, and together, they make sure we have the power we need, whenever we need it.

Need New Lawn Equipment? Consider Going Electric.

BENEFITS OF GOING ELECTRIC

If it is time to replace yard equipment, going electric has many benefits.

If you are considering buying a battery-powered mower or a corded or battery-powered trimmer, edger or leaf blower, there are more options available now than in recent years, and improvements have been made to run times, features, quality and service life.

ADVANTAGES INCLUDE:

- ▶ **GOING GREEN:** Electric devices do not emit byproducts that damage the environment.
- ▶ **NO ODOR:** There are no emissions, which means no exhaust odor.
- ▶ **MORE FREE TIME:** There is no need to buy and change the oil, spark plugs and air filters.
- ▶ **LESS NOISE:** Electric yard tools and mowers can be quieter than gas-powered ones.
- ▶ **EASE OF USE:** Simply plug in or charge to use. Some brands offer battery continuity between devices.
- ▶ **LESS WEIGHT:** Corded electric devices are often lighter than gas-powered equipment.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

STORM SAFETY

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Spring is a wonderful season, but it can bring powerful storms. Read the clues below, then use the word bank to complete the storm safety tips.



1. Keep a _____ handy in case of a power outage.

2. Be watchful for signs of a thunderstorm, including dark skies, flashes of _____ or strong winds.

3. If a _____ is issued, seek shelter in a centrally located room in your home, a basement or storm cellar.

4. If you're outside and hear _____, go indoors immediately.

5. Practice a tornado _____ with your family once a year.

WORD BANK

- ▶ thunder
- ▶ drill
- ▶ flashlight
- ▶ tornado warning
- ▶ lightning

ANSWER KEY: 1. FLASHLIGHT 2. LIGHTNING 3. TORNADO WARNING 4. THUNDER 5. DRILL