

Congratulations on Your Retirement, Jeanette

On Feb. 8, 2021, at the Prairie Land office in Concordia, employees, staff and family celebrated the retirement of Senior Customer Service Representative **JEANETTE DENEAULT**.

Deneault began her career on Aug. 25, 1992, with WestPlains Energy. She became a Prairie Land employee with the Aquila, Inc. acquisition in 2007.

"It's been one of the most interesting and rewarding jobs I have had," Deneault said. "After being in customer service for so many years, I'm sure I will miss the interaction with our Prairie Land customers and my co-workers."

Deneault and her husband, Don, have four children and seven grandchildren. Her retirement plans, once it is safe, is to travel and spend more time with her kids and grandkids. Congratulations, Jeanette, we will miss you!



Don and Jeanette Deneault

Avoid Solar Energy Scams

Solar energy is booming, and the future is brighter than ever. Through the use of rooftop solar panels, many homeowners can now harness the sun's natural rays to produce their own electricity that's environmentally friendly and cost-effective.

But with the increasing popularity of solar, unfortunately, some businesses are taking advantage of consumers who are interested in generating their own energy through rooftop panels.

While many solar companies are genuine and truly want to help consumers with a successful solar installation, there are the occasional bad apples.

You've likely heard a story or two about solar vendors that promised rooftop panels that would generate enough electricity to power the entire home. Then, after the homeowner has paid thousands of dollars for the installation, the solar panels aren't working, and the vendor is nowhere to be found. Sadly, this story has been the reality for many consumers. If you're interested in solar panels for your home, consider these tips before installation:

- ▶ Talk to an energy adviser at Prairie Land Electric Cooperative first. We want you to feel confident about any decisions you make about your home energy use, especially decisions about generating energy at home.
- ▶ Collect at least three quotes from different solar companies to ensure

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you're getting a competitive deal. As with any major purchase, research is key, so thoroughly read customer reviews for each of the three solar vendors.

- ▶ If you speak to a solar vendor and they use high-pressure tactics, like an offer that's only good for 24 hours, run! Any reputable solar company will recognize that you need time to review a proposal and thoroughly weigh your decision.
- ▶ You know if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. So, if a solar company is making promises that sound unachievable and outlandish, they probably are. Remember, if you have any questions, you can always count on Prairie Land Electric Cooperative for advice.
- ▶ Finally, when it's time to review and sign a solar contract, make sure the language is clear and easy to understand. Ensure any prior verbal (or emailed) promises are also included in the contract.

Going solar is a major decision, so you'll want to conduct a good bit of research first. If you're looking for a general starting point, check out the Department of Energy's Homeowner's Guide to Going Solar.

Prairie Land Welcomes New Employees



Jessie Hahn

JESSIE HAHN began her employment with Prairie Land on Jan. 4, 2021, as a customer service representative in the Concordia office. She went to high school in Andale and then attended Cloud County Community College for general studies.

Prior to starting her position, Hahn worked for the City of Concordia. She has recently purchased a home in the city and spends her free time cherishing her 8-month-old daughter, Isla.



Elena Larson

ELENA LARSON started her employment with Prairie Land on Jan. 18, 2021, as manager of regulatory services. She had worked with the cooperative previously as a rate consultant and has also served as a senior rate analyst at the Kansas Corporation Commission.

Larson grew up in Tajikistan and originally came to the United States as an exchange student. She returned to attend Washburn University and continued her graduate studies at Ashford University in Iowa. Her husband, Randy, also attended

Washburn, and their 18-year-old daughter, Anna Rose, will be joining their alma mater, too.

Larson relocated to Norton from Topeka. The family has two Australian shepherds, Laika and Spica, and two cats, a Russian blue named Smoky and a black cat they named Norton to commemorate their new home. Larson is addicted to walking, hiking, shopping and organic products.

Heersink Begins Internship

TRENT HEERSINK

began a three-month internship with Prairie Land in Saint Francis on Feb. 8, 2021. Heersink is from Prairie View and is a 2020 graduate of Manhattan Area Technical College. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting and shooting.



Trent Heersink



Save the Date!

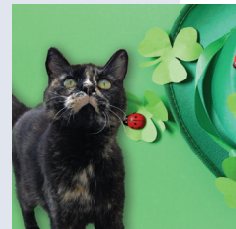
HAVE ROOTS



KILOWATT TIPS

Lifestyle Can Make a Difference

You have control over how and when to use your electricity. And, you choose the steps necessary to maintain this standard of living. Here are some “lifestyle considerations” that may cause your electric bill to be higher than normal.



Kilowatt

Typically, there is a direct relationship between the number of people living in the home and the energy use. This is especially true if you have teenagers. Also, if friends and relatives are visiting, you can expect to use more energy for cooking, baking, laundry, bathing, and heating and cooling your home.

Did you know your water use can impact your energy bill? To help manage your water use and energy consumption ask yourself the following questions:

- ▶ When I take a bath, do I use hot water sparingly or is the tub full of water?
- ▶ Do I take short showers, or do I stay in the shower until the hot water runs out?
- ▶ Do I operate my washer and/or dishwasher with a full load or whenever it is convenient?

Remember, knowledge can be a powerful tool in reducing your energy costs. However, it is up to you to formulate a plan, make the right decisions and follow through to improve energy efficiency in your home.

Frayed Cords are Dangerous

Cord insulation keeps electricity in the wires where it belongs. Regularly check appliance power cords and connections for wear. Worn or frayed cords can cause shock, short circuit or fire. Do not use damaged cords.

KILOWATT was adopted by Prairie Land after the December 2006 ice storm. She now brings you energy and safety tips each month.

