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PRAIRIE LAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

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FROM THE CEO

Reflecting on Progress, Planning for the Future

As we close another year, I want to pause and express gratitude — for you, the members of Prairie Land Electric Cooperative — for your continued trust and support. Our cooperative was built on the promise of people coming together to improve the quality of life in their communities, and that promise still guides everything we do today.

Each decision, whether it's about delivering reliable electricity, innovating for the future or advocating for smart energy policies that impact our local community, comes back to one simple question: How will this benefit the members we serve?

This past year has been marked by meaningful progress, both in strengthening our local system and in working at the national level to influence energy policies that directly affect reliability and resilience. While the details of federal regulations may seem distant, they significantly impact our daily operations here at home.

Over the past year, electric cooperatives across the country came together for advocacy efforts on the

Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Power Plant Rule. As originally written, the rule would have forced a rapid shift away from always-available power generation resources, threatening the accessibility of a diverse fuel supply that keeps electricity reliable. Renewable energy sources are an essential and growing part of our energy future. However, we also recognize that the demand for electricity is rising rapidly, and natural gas, coal, and nuclear power remain essential for ensuring power is available around the clock. As we collaborated and engaged with policymakers, we pressed for a more balanced approach to generating power — one that supports clean energy innovation while still recognizing the role of traditional resources. Our efforts are helping to shape a more workable path forward that better protects reliability and keeps costs in check for Prairie Land Electric Cooperative members.



Kirk Girard

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Safety Poster Contest WINNERS

To celebrate Cooperative Month in October, Prairie Land held a poster contest for third graders across its 18-county service territory. Students used their creativity to draw posters of electrical safety at home or school.

The top three winners were awarded a new bike and helmet. As an incentive for schools and teachers to allow their students to enter, all participating classroom teachers received a donation from Prairie Land to use for classroom supplies. Classes with winning posters received an additional donation. Prairie Land received 418 posters from 33 participating classrooms in 20 elementary schools. Thank you for supporting your electric cooperative and promoting electrical safety.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

- **FIRST PLACE — ROWAN KEISWETTER**, Eisenhower Elementary, Norton; Ms. David, teacher, \$300 donation.
- **SECOND PLACE — EVIE NYKAMP**, Northern Valley Grade School, Almena; Ms. Gebhard, teacher, \$250 donation.
- **THIRD PLACE — MARIE CARROLL**, Rawlins County Elementary, Atwood; Ms. Brown, teacher, \$200 donation.



First-place winner Rowan Keiswetter (left) pictured with Construction Foreman Landon Keiswetter (middle) and his teacher, Ms. David (right).



Evie Nykamp (second from right), second-place winner, poses with her teacher, Ms. Gebhard; Bryant Wornkey (left), journeyman lineworker; and Brett McChesney (right), area supervisor.



Third-place winner Marie Carroll (second from right) poses with her mother (right), and Journeyman Lineworkers Nick Withington (left) and Blake Krien (second from left).



FROM APPRENTICE TO JOURNEYMAN

Congratulations to Nick Withington

We're proud to announce that **NICK WITHINGTON** has successfully advanced from apprentice lineman to journeyman lineman! This achievement marks the culmination of years of training, hands-on experience, and dedication to the trade. Reaching journeyman status is a significant milestone that reflects Nick's hard work, technical skill, and commitment to safety and excellence.

Please join us in congratulating Nick on this outstanding accomplishment and celebrating his continued growth with Prairie Land.



Reflecting on Progress, Planning for the Future

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Another area of ongoing progress came through advocacy work on federal permitting reform. For too long, outdated rules and lengthy delays have stood in the way of building critical infrastructure, including new transmission lines and generation projects. Modernizing this process is essential if we are going to strengthen the electric grid and keep pace with growing demand. This year, electric co-ops helped move the needle on permitting reform, advocating for policies that make the process faster, more predictable and more efficient. Investments we make in infrastructure will reach communities sooner, improving reliability and preparing us for the future.

We're also seeing progress with bipartisan support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Act of 2025, which would expedite the disaster recovery process for electric cooperatives and the communities they serve. Severe storms are a fact of life, and their impact on the electric system can be devastating.

The March 2025 storm system that brought blizzard conditions across a large portion of our Cooperative's service territory — including Graham, Jewell, Phillips, Rooks and Smith counties — is the most recent example of our ongoing partnership with FEMA. Damages from that event alone were estimated at approximately \$1 million.

FEMA is a crucial partner for electric co-ops in efforts to restore power after disaster strikes, but currently, the federal reimbursement process after a major storm is slow and full of red tape. If passed, the bill would make FEMA a stronger, more responsive agency to help strengthen rural resilience, protect taxpayer dollars and ensure essential services are restored as quickly as possible after a natural disaster.

Achievements like these are not just wins in Washington — they are wins for Prairie Land Electric Cooperative members like you.

In addition to advocacy efforts, we are proactively addressing our communities' needs for the future by investing in new technologies and programs that improve service for our members. Advanced monitoring systems help us identify power delivery issues before they occur, improving daily operations and reliability. A recent example of these investments is the implementation of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and installation of Automatic Circuit Reclosers (ACRs). As detailed in our April 2025 issue, SCADA provides centralized, real-time monitoring and control of the distribution network, speeding outage detection and restoration and enhancing overall system efficiency, while ACRs quickly isolate and restore power during faults, reduce service interruptions, improve safety, and support a more reliable electric distribution system.

As we look ahead to a new year, I see both challenges and opportunities on the horizon. The energy industry is undergoing significant change driven by the rising need for more electricity, new tools and technologies, and federal energy policies.

The path forward requires innovative thinking and member-focused solutions. I'm confident that with the dedication of Prairie Land Electric Cooperative employees and the continued support of our members, we are well-positioned to adapt and meet challenges head-on. Through it all, our promise to you remains steadfast: reliable power for today — and tomorrow.

CO-OP MONTH GIVEAWAY WINNERS

We brought back our popular member appreciation giveaway for cooperative month in October. We had four different featured prizes and gave away additional bill credits each week. Members entered to win using the entry form in the October issue of this magazine, on the bill insert, by completing an online form, or while visiting a service center. Here are this year's winners:



Co-op Month winners from top: Gilbert Meyer; Justine Tuttle accepting the prize on behalf of her husband, Casey Tuttle; Staci Breiner; and Mark Stenson.

OCT. 10

► **NOCO BOOST BATTERY JUMP START — GILBERT MEYER**, Smith Center

► **\$100 BILL CREDIT — RICHARD SWEAT**, Phillipsburg

► **\$50 BILL CREDIT — DEE YOCUM**, Prairie View

OCT. 17

► **NINJA FOODI POSSIBLE COOKER+ — STACI BREINER**, Norcatur

► **\$100 BILL CREDIT — CLARENCE KENNEDY**, Phillipsburg

► **\$50 BILL CREDIT — VICKIE GASSMANN**, Clayton

OCT. 24

► **SHOP VAC — CASEY TUTTLE**, Clayton

► **\$100 BILL CREDIT — NEVA**, Concordia

► **\$50 BILL CREDIT — KEALEY VANSCHOELANDT**, Smith Center

OCT. 31

► **PORTABLE POWER BANK — MARK STENSON**, Formoso

► **\$100 BILL CREDIT — KATHY CAMERON**, Hill City

► **\$50 BILL CREDIT — DON BENYSHEK**, Cuba

Youth Tour Applications Open

Apply today to win an all-expenses-paid trip to either the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 13-19, 2026, or the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, July 10-16, 2026. Prairie Land will sponsor two winners for each trip. Get more information and apply online by scanning the QR code. You can also find the form in your monthly bill, request one from your high school counselor, or contact us at 800-577-3323 or speltier@plec.coop.

MAKE YOUR MARK!
JUNE 13-19, 2026
COORDINATED BY KEC
KANSAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, INC.
A Steamboat Energy Cooperative
COMMUNITY | LEADERSHIP | MEMORIES

COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP
MAKE YOUR OWN PATH
JULY 10-16, 2026
COORDINATED BY KEC
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SCAN TO APPLY BY 5 P.M. JAN. 2, 2026.

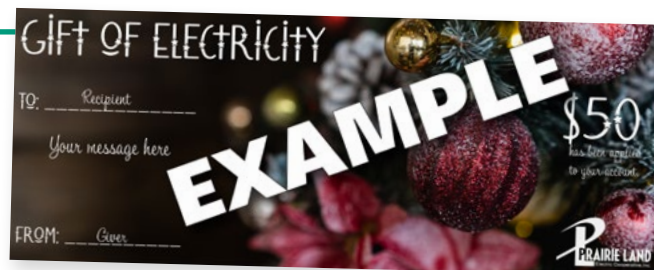
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Helping someone with their utility payment is an especially practical and thoughtful gesture and convenient gift for any occasion. When you send this form, along with a check or money order in the amount of your choosing, your gift will be added to the recipient's Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. account and they will receive a Gift of Electricity receipt. (Please allow up to one week for your gift payment to be applied.) For more information, call us at 800-577-3323.

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Address: _____ Apt/Unit #: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Personalize Your Gift Receipt

Gift Amount: \$ _____ To: _____ From: _____

Optional Message : _____