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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.

POWER
to make life better

FROM THE CEO

Wired for Growth

Data centers may feel like a big-city phenomenon, but more and more of them are showing up in rural communities like ours — and there's good reason for that. Rural areas offer what data centers need most: affordable land, room to grow, and access to transmission lines that can move large amounts of power.

What makes data centers and other emerging large-scale high energy-demand companies different from other large businesses is their appetite for electricity. These facilities run 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Servers must stay online constantly, which means power has to be reliable every minute of every day.

For electric cooperatives like Prairie Land, powering data centers and

similar large load businesses creates both opportunities and challenges.

On the plus side, data centers have the potential to bring steady, long-term load growth that helps support investments in the local grid. With proper planning and policy support, those upgrades — including new substations, stronger lines and smarter technology — could benefit all Prairie Land's members and help keep electricity rates steady.

But providing power to data centers

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Kirk Girard

PLEASE JOIN US

PRAIRIE LAND ANNUAL MEETING
Electric Cooperative, Inc.

14935 US HWY 36, NORTON, KS • 785.877.3323

April 9, 2026
Lunch at Noon • Meeting at 12:45 p.m.

TIPS TO AVOID UTILITY SCAMS



Scammers and cyber criminals look for weak points to exploit before software companies can fix them. Update software programs on your computer, tablet and mobile phone as soon as possible when a newer version becomes available. Software updates often contain critical patches and protections against security threats. Turn on automatic updates to ensure your security software, internet browser, operating system and mobile apps stay current.

SOURCE: WWW.CONSUMER.FTC.GOV



Wired for Growth Continued from page 12A ▶

presents challenges, too. These large facilities can be constructed and operating in as little as one year, but ensuring the necessary infrastructure, equipment and electricity requires longer lead times and significant financial investment. Strategic planning and partnerships, as well as long-term power supply strategies are essential to the process.

While Prairie Land does not currently serve any data centers, co-ops nationwide are fielding requests and inquiries from tech companies, and we anticipate similar requests in the not-too-distant future.

As a member-owned cooperative, our responsibility is twofold: to listen to the communities we serve and to provide reliable, affordable electric service to all Prairie Land's members. Balancing those responsibilities is not always simple, especially as new types of large-scale

energy users — like data centers — become part of the local landscape.

No matter what the future holds, our priority will be supporting growth with fairness — that means ensuring large-scale energy users pay their fair share and our local communities feel invested in.

The energy landscape is changing, and with it comes both opportunities and challenges. My commitment, and the commitment of Prairie Land's board and employees, is to continue listening, communicating, and working with our members and community partners to ensure all decisions reflect the best interests of the people we serve.

If you have questions or concerns regarding data centers, your energy bills, or any other co-op matters, we encourage you to stay engaged and reach out.

Your voice matters at Prairie Land Electric Cooperative.

Big Data, Bigger Demands

Companies are choosing rural areas for their data centers because of available land, low energy costs and economic incentives. Data centers require significant amounts of electricity to operate, presenting new opportunities and challenges for electric co-ops.

- 1 **HVAC:** Constant cooling is needed to ensure the servers function properly.
- 2 **SERVERS:** Servers run applications and process data 24/7.
- 3 **INFRASTRUCTURE:** Data centers often require new electrical infrastructure to meet their power needs.
- 4 **WATER SOURCE:** Many large data centers are deploying evaporative cooling, which is more efficient than compressor-based systems.
- 5 **BACKUP POWER:** On-site generators keep data centers running during power outages and can also help lower demand when electricity use spikes.



READ THE ARTICLE "POWERING PROGRESS RESPONSIBLY" IN THE FEBRUARY 2026 ISSUE OF KANSAS COUNTRY LIVING TO LEARN MORE.

Youth Tour 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., and the KEY Leadership Conference in Topeka. The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., will take place June 13-19, 2026, and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, will be held July 10-16, 2026.

The competitors completed a test and wrote an essay to bring to their interviews at the cooperative's Concordia and Norton offices on Jan. 25. **OWEN RUSSELL**, Courtland, and **REID STAMPER**, Plainville, will attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. **NATALYN BURSCH**, Bird City, and **ANNIKA WERNECKE**, Clifton, will attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp. This is an outstanding opportunity for these students to network with other young leaders, learn about electric cooperatives, and watch our government in action.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE IMPRESSIVE YOUNG LEADERS!



Owen Russell



Reid Stamper



Natalyn Bursch



Annika Wernecke



As you prepare for planting season, don't forget to plan for safety. There are many aspects to safety on the farm, but electrical safety is often overlooked. Keep these safety tips in mind as you prepare for planting.



TRAIN OTHERS: Train anyone working on your farm, including family members and seasonal workers, on electrical hazards.

SAFETY FIRST: Have daily meetings to review the day's work and discuss safety implications. Know and review where the power lines are, the clearance required, and the proper position of extensions as they are transported.



WAIT TO UNFOLD: Remind workers to fold or unfold extensions in the field, not close to the field's edge where power lines are typically located.

USE A SPOTTER: When working near power lines, always have a spotter on the ground who can direct you away from power lines or poles if you are getting too close.



DO NOT EXIT YOUR CAB: If your machine or truck makes contact with a power line, pole or guy wire, you could become electricity's path to ground and become electrocuted if you step out of the cab.

CALL 911: Call 911 to have your electric utility dispatched to deenergize the power source. Only exit the cab if your equipment is on fire. If that happens, make a solid jump out and hop away with feet together as far as you can.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

Spring Forward
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR
*** Sunday, March 8, 2026 ***

Spring Energy Efficiency Tips

- ▶ On pleasant days, consider turning off your heating/cooling system and opening windows.
- ▶ Replace dirty air filters to keep your system running efficiently.
- ▶ Seal air leaks around windows and doors to save energy and improve comfort.

Help the Lineworker Spring into Action

Did you know March 20 is the first day of spring? This time of year marks new beginnings and fresh blooms, but it can also bring powerful storms that interrupt electric service.

Help the lineworker find his way through the maze to the bucket truck so he can restore power.

