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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. Financially Responsible Always.

At Prairie Land, we know our members rely on electricity every day — for homes, farms, businesses, schools and communities across our service territory. When you flip a switch, you expect and need the power to be there. We understand that expectation, and we also understand that every dollar on your electric bill matters. Meeting that expectation requires member-focused values built on financial stewardship and prudent decision-making.

Over the past several months, we have shared what it means to be reliable today and resilient tomorrow. That commitment is built on disciplined planning, ongoing maintenance, workforce training, and strategic system investments. In 2025, Prairie Land

achieved 99.9% reliability, an outcome that reflects the work of our employees and the local investments made on behalf of our member-owners.

Reliability does not happen by accident. It requires preparation before storms arrive, maintenance before equipment fails, and long-term planning before growth reaches our doorstep. It also requires accountability — making careful decisions about where, when and how member dollars are invested.



Kirk Girard

BALANCING SERVICE NEEDS WITH MEMBER IMPACT

As a member-owned, not-for-profit

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POWER LINE ISSUES

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

POWER
to make life better

EXTREME HEAT CAN BE DANGEROUS.

Keep these safety tips in mind.

- Stay hydrated, drinking plenty of water throughout the day.
- Limit outdoor activities during the hottest part of the day.
- Check on neighbors, family members and friends who may be more vulnerable to heat-related illnesses.
- Never leave children or pets in a parked vehicle, even for a few minutes.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

Reliable Today. Resilient Tomorrow. Financially Responsible Always. *Continued from page 12A ►*

cooperative, Prairie Land is accountable to the people we serve. We are locally owned and guided by a member-elected board of trustees. Additionally, many of our employees live in the same communities where they work. That local connection matters because our decisions affect our neighbors and our communities.

In last month's issue, our generation and transmission provider, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, shared more detail about the pass-through wholesale power portion of the bill. This article focuses on the remaining portion that recovers the costs of the distribution system Prairie Land operates — the local network of substations, lines, transformers, protective equipment, meters, service drops, etc., that ultimately delivers electricity to your homes, farms and businesses.

Even in maintaining Prairie Land's local distribution system, most costs are external and are therefore outside our full control. Materials, labor, supply chain conditions, equipment availability, and state and local taxes and fees assessed on the cooperative all affect what it takes to maintain and improve the system. Our responsibility is to control what we can: plan carefully, prioritize wisely, and invest member dollars where they provide the greatest long-term value.

SPENDING MONEY WHERE IT MATTERS MOST

We know electric bills matter to household budgets, farm operations and local businesses. That is why financial stewardship is not just a phrase — it is a responsibility. The lowest upfront cost is not always the most responsible choice if it leads to more repairs, shorter service life, or weaker performance during storms. Our goal is to weigh cost, safety, reliability, and long-term value before decisions are made.

One example is Prairie Land's planned move from wood to fiberglass crossarms, which are the horizontal supports mounted on utility poles that hold power lines in place. Fiberglass may cost slightly more upfront, but it can reduce installation needs, last longer and provide added strength in severe weather. Additionally, it results in a smaller annual cost because the longer service life reduces annual

depreciation expense. That kind of decision reflects the balance we are working to achieve: being cost-conscious today while investing in tomorrow.

The same principle applies to substation modernization. As we begin to update aging infrastructure, we are also looking for smarter ways to engineer and configure the system. In several instances, our engineering and operations teams have determined that upgrading every substation is not necessary. Instead, upgrading a strategically selected substation can provide sufficient capacity to serve load from neighboring substations, while existing facilities remain in service to provide redundancy (i.e., backup if needed). This approach reduces costs while maintaining system reliability and resiliency.

In addition, we plan to upgrade other field equipment such as insulators, cutouts and switches — transitioning from traditional glass-based components to polymer-based materials in certain applications. These upgrades can improve durability, reduce maintenance needs, and enhance performance in harsh weather conditions, supporting both reliability and resiliency over time.

These decisions require careful review because the outcome must serve members today and protect value for the years ahead.

PREPARING FOR GROWTH WITHOUT SHIFTING UNNECESSARY COSTS

Demand for electricity is increasing across the nation, and we are seeing the same in Kansas. New and expanding businesses, larger loads, and changing energy needs require us to plan for future capacity while continuing to serve all members across our system.

When new large-load projects require electric infrastructure, they must pay for the facilities needed to serve them. This helps protect current member-owners from paying costs tied to the new development, while also allowing communities to benefit from potential growth and economic opportunities.

READY FOR THE UNEXPECTED

Storms, extreme weather and equipment failures remind us why preparation matters. Following the March 2025 blizzard that affected parts of our service territory, our crews worked under difficult conditions to restore service, replacing

approximately 190 poles and responding to nearly \$1 million in system damage. Events like this are costly, but they also show why continued investment in a stronger, more resilient system is necessary.

This is also why we invested in system monitoring and control tools such as Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), which we previously shared with members through our annual report and earlier communications. SCADA provides real-time visibility into the electric system, helping us identify outages faster, locate issues more precisely, and restore service more efficiently.

When available, we also actively pursue and use grant opportunities and other funding sources — including programs such as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance — to help offset eligible restoration and repair costs.

Whether we are improving outage response, replacing aging equipment, or planning for future demand, our commitment is to keep service reliable while being conscientious about the costs required to do that work.

A COMMITMENT TO LONG-TERM VALUE

Prairie Land Electric Cooperative's responsibility is to meet today's needs and prepare for tomorrow's challenges without losing sight of the impact on our member-owners. We do not take that responsibility lightly.

Demand for electricity is increasing across the nation, and we are seeing the same in Kansas. New and expanding businesses, larger loads, and changing energy needs require us to plan for future capacity while continuing to serve all members across our system.

As costs rise and the electric grid becomes more complex, the cooperative must continue planning carefully so the system can meet today's needs and tomorrow's challenges. We know those decisions affect member-owners, and they deserve thoughtful explanation. Our commitment is to approach each decision with discipline, transparency and respect for the members who depend on — and pay for — the system we maintain together.

That is the cooperative difference. Prairie Land is not driven by profit. We are driven by our responsibility to serve member-owners, strengthen our communities, and make thoughtful investments that keep power reliable today and resilient for the future.

BALANCING TODAY.
Powering Tomorrow.

We balance the investments needed for reliable electric service with the responsibility to steward resources wisely for our members—today and for generations to come.

RELIABLE TODAY	FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP	RESILIENT TOMORROW
- Storm response - Strong infrastructure - Smart technology - Ready when you need us	Prudent planning. Responsible spending.	- Responsible rate management - Prudent investment decisions - Operational efficiency - Long-term financial sustainability

Reliable Today. Resilient Tomorrow.

As your not-for-profit electric cooperative, we're here to power **your** life — today and for generations to come.

Local Decisions | Member Focused | Community Driven

Prairie Land Electric Sends Russell, Stamper to Explore the Nation's Capital

OWEN RUSSELL, Courtland, and **REID STAMPER**, Plainville, both of whom will be seniors this fall, recently represented Prairie Land at the 2026 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., held June 13-19. During their time in Washington, D.C., students deepened their understanding of America's electric cooperatives and developed their leadership skills while connecting with peers from across the cooperative network.

This year, the Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative joined the Kansas-Hawaii delegation. These 32 standout student representatives, 27 from Kansas, four from Hawaii, and one from Maine, were hand-selected through an application process. Candidates completed study materials, including a cooperative knowledge test and an essay on the meaning of leadership, before advancing to interviews.

The Youth Tour kicked off in Topeka with a speech from Trooper Ben, a welcome from other notable Youth Tour Alumni, and dinner, followed by an exclusive night tour of the Kansas State Capitol. The tour was led by Senator Brenda Dietrich and Representative Tobias Schlingensiepen, along with Peter Barstad, director of policy in the Kansas House Majority Leader Chris Croft's office. After returning to the hotel, students had the opportunity to get to know each other better with icebreaker activities.

In Washington, D.C., students explored iconic landmarks including the U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, and The People's House — A White House Experience, along with numerous monuments and memorials. Visits to the Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Smithsonian museums offered powerful insights into history and culture.

On June 18, during the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) National Youth Day, students were inspired by a dynamic lineup of speakers, including NRECA



Owen Russell (left) and Reid Stamper (right) recently represented Prairie Land Electric Cooperative at the 2026 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., held June 13-19.

CEO Jim Matheson, NRECA President Mike Partin, Paralympic Gold Medalist Mike Schlappi, and Brynn Lee Hirata, the 2026 National Youth Leadership Council Spokesperson. This year's NRECA Youth Tour brought together around 2,100 delegates and chaperones across 44 states to Washington, D.C. This attendance represents a record of almost 700 cooperatives, bringing attendance back to pre-pandemic levels.

Students had the unique opportunity to meet with U.S. Senators Jerry Moran and Roger Marshall. Additionally, delegates met with Chief of Staff Krisann Pearce from Congressman Derek Schmidt's office; Legislative Assistant Rylee Rosamond and intern Hayden Napierala (a 2023 Youth Tour alumna) from Congressman Tracey Mann's office; and intern Cappi Hoeting (a 2022 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp alumna) from Senator Moran's office. During these discussions, they asked thoughtful questions on a range of topics that mattered to them, gaining firsthand insight into the legislative process and the role of elected officials.

Reflecting on their experience, Stamper shared what inspired him most on this trip. "Witnessing all of the wonderful speakers and listening to how they learned to overcome their challenges. Paralympic medalist Mike Schlappi's words, 'love yourself from the inside out,' really stuck with me."

Beyond the educational experiences, students enjoyed unique opportunities to bond with peers from across the country — trading pins with other state delegations and taking in the sights during a scenic dinner cruise on the Potomac River.

"The camaraderie that this great group formed is something I will always cherish and remember," Russell said. "Being around others who truly loved learning and are striving to make an impact was remarkable."

Students who participated in the 2026 Youth Tour are also eligible to apply for the NRECA Glenn English Scholarship. For more information about Youth Tour or other KEC youth programs, please contact Stepheni Peltier at 785-874-2715.



Kansas delegates pose in the U.S. Capitol with Senator Jerry Moran (seated).