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PRAIRIE LAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

PRAIRIE LAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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FROM THE CEO

Electricity Brings Everyday Value

We know our members are feeling stretched right now. When the cost of groceries, gas, insurance and other essentials keeps climbing, every bill that arrives in the mailbox matters — including the electric bill. If you're looking closely at your household budget or wondering how to make each dollar go further, you're not alone. Your co-op understands, and we don't take lightly the trust you place in us to provide reliable power at a fair cost.

That's why I think it's important to look at what electricity makes possible each day and the value it continues to provide in our homes, farms and businesses.

The average U.S. residential electric bill is about \$150 a month — roughly \$5 a day. I often think about what that \$5 provides. It's about the cost of a specialty coffee, yet electricity powers nearly every moment of our daily lives,

often without us giving it a second thought. In fact, many typical purchases cost more than a day's worth of electricity. A fast-food combo meal averages about \$9, and a single movie ticket can cost around \$13.

For about \$5 a day, your refrigerator keeps food fresh around the clock. Your heating and cooling system helps keep your family comfortable through the seasons. Lights brighten your home after sunset. Appliances make cooking and cleaning easier. Devices stay charged so you can work, learn, communicate, and stay connected with loved ones. When you think about everything electricity makes possible, it's one of the best values in the average household budget.



Kirk Girard

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POWER LINE ISSUES

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

POWER
to make life better

HAPPY LABOR DAY

In observance of the holiday,
our office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7.

A LITTLE COST. A LOT OF LIFE.

For about \$150 a month, electricity powers hundreds of tasks that keep your home comfortable, connected and running smoothly — from brewing your morning coffee to keeping your family cool, safe and entertained.

- ▶ **720** hours of refrigeration
- ▶ **20+** loads of clean clothes
- ▶ **15+** home-cooked meals
- ▶ **90+** hours of lighting
- ▶ **30** days of comfort
- ▶ Numerous devices charged
- ▶ Hundreds of hours of cooling/heating
- ▶ Countless connections to work, school and entertainment



SOURCE: NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

Electricity Brings Everyday Value

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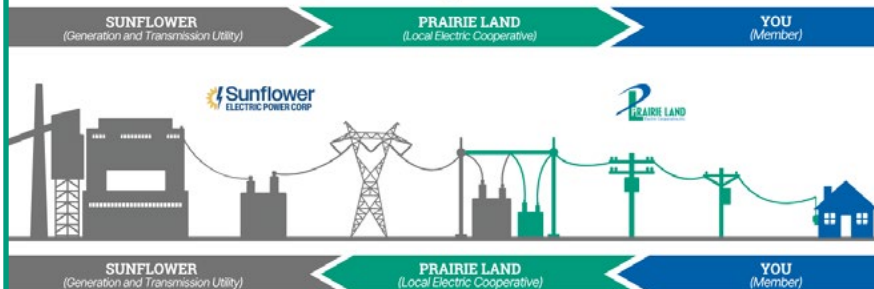
Even with electricity's exceptional value, we know every dollar matters. If you're looking for ways to lower your energy use, Prairie Land is here to help. Visit the Energy Efficiency section of our website for energy-saving tips, home efficiency resources, and tools to help you manage your electric use. We also regularly share seasonal energy-saving advice on our Facebook page and in the *Kansas Country Living* magazine, so be sure to follow along. Information about federal and local electric bill assistance programs, which are administered by external organizations, can be

found at www.prairielandelectric.com/assistance-programs.

Prairie Land is proud to be more than your electric provider. Because we're a cooperative, we're locally owned by you, the members we serve. That means every decision we make is guided by what's best for our community — not by outside shareholders.

Thank you for trusting us to power your home and your life. We're committed to providing everyday value for you and your family with reliable power — so you can make the most of every energy dollar.

Flow of Power / Affordability ▶



◀ Cooperative Ownership / Accountability

SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ PART 2 OF THE BEHIND THE COST OF POWER ARTICLE SERIES, co-authored with our wholesale power provider, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation. This ongoing series was originally introduced in the July 2026 issue of *Kansas Country Living* and will be published on Sunflower's website.



FARM AND RANCH LIFE IS FULL OF VALUABLE LESSONS

— but also serious risks, especially for kids. Think twice before letting kids drive tractors; more than 40% of fatal farm accidents include those younger than 15.



Bursch and Wernecke Represent Prairie Land at CYLC

NATALYN BURSCH AND ANNIKA WERNECKE recently represented Prairie Land Electric Cooperative at the 49th Annual Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC) held July 10-16 near scenic Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The camp brought together 80 high school student leaders from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming, sponsored by 46 electric and agriculture cooperatives.

Bursch and Wernecke were selected by Prairie Land for their exemplary leadership skills, academic excellence, involvement in extracurricular activities, and strong character as demonstrated in their applications. These student leaders completed evaluations, which consisted of study materials, including a cooperative knowledge test and an essay on the meaning of leadership, before advancing to interviews.

Throughout the weeklong camp, students gained hands-on experience in cooperative business operations by forming and managing a mock candy cooperative. They elected a board of directors, appointed a general manager, created committees, and held daily membership meetings, mirroring the real-world structure of member-owned cooperatives. Educational sessions covered leadership development, conflict resolution, and co-op career opportunities. Highlights included electric safety demonstrations by cooperative linemen, a live raptor and avian presentation from HawkQuest, and a tour of the Craig Power Station.

"I think what affected me the most was seeing how many people don't feel like they can truly be themselves in their everyday life," Wernecke said. "It also taught me that you truly don't know what people's stories are so never be quick to judge."

CYLC offered more than just professional growth opportunities; it fostered a sense of camaraderie and adventure. Students experienced the charm of downtown Steamboat Springs and braved the rapids of the Colorado River on a rafting trip. Recreational highlights included a volleyball tournament, swimming, a talent show and a dance.

"I have definitely grown in my confidence, and I have stepped out of my comfort zone many times," Bursch said. "I have met the most amazing people [at] this camp."

For more information about this camp and other youth programs, contact Steph Peltier at 785-874-2715.

CAPTIONS TOP TO BOTTOM AND LEFT TO RIGHT:

Annika Wernecke (left) and Natalyn Bursch represented Prairie Land Electric Cooperative at CYLC in July.

Eighty high school students from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming attended the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

While touring Craig Power Station, Natalyn Bursch (third from right) stops for a photo.

Natalyn Bursch poses with a falcon during the HawkQuest avian protection presentation.

After crafting a model showing electrical distribution, Annika Wernecke (back row, third from right) poses with her small group.

Annika Wernecke tries on a hard hat an electric lineman would use for personal protective equipment.



SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH



**Be ready before
the storm.**



**Stay connected
during an outage.**



**Learn how to
use your backup
generator safely.**



**Create a plan for
your loved ones.**

SOURCE: NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

Employee Anniversary

DOMINIC URBAN began his career with Prairie Land on Sept. 18, 2006, as an apprentice lineman in Norton. In 2011, he advanced to journeyman lineman. He accepted the position of metering and apparatus assistant in July 2021 and then transitioned to a journeyman maintenance position in 2024.

Urban and his wife, JaLynn, have four children: Mason, 23, and his wife, Hannah, and their son, Dean; Garrett, 21, and his wife, Avery; Michael, 17; and Serenity, 16. In his spare time, Urban enjoys working on vintage cars, hunting, fishing, and spending time with his children and grandson.



Dominic Urban

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

September marks the start of fall's shoulder season, often bringing temperatures mild enough to give your HVAC system a break. Open windows and use ceiling fans when weather allows. It's also a great time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance, as fall often offers better appointment availability. Regular tune-ups can improve efficiency, reduce the risk of breakdowns and keep your home comfortable year-round. SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



Farm Safety and Health Week

SEPT. 21-25

*As harvest season approaches, take
time to think about electrical safety*

- ▶ When operating machinery, watch for overhead power lines.
- ▶ Look up before moving tall equipment and keep it at least 10 feet away from power lines.
- ▶ Never approach a downed power line. Report it immediately.
- ▶ We're proud to power the farms that power our communities.

Stay safe out there!

