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**PRAIRIE LAND  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

# NEWS

## Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc

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**Kirk Girard**  
Chief Executive Officer

### Power Line Issues

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

Our offices will be closed on Monday, September 5, 2022 in observation of Labor Day.

## FROM THE CEO

# The Power of Preparation

With severe weather events occurring more frequently, now more than ever, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, I want to remind community members about the power of preparation. While you don't have to achieve a "doomsday prepper" level of preparedness, there are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress, anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event. We recommend starting with the basics.

Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- ▶ Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.
- ▶ Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (i.e. via text, social media, third party, etc.).
- ▶ Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and ATMs may not work.
- ▶ Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).



Kirk Girard

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## 2022 Election Dates | *Your Vote is Your Voice*

<p><b>September 20</b> National Voter Registration Day</p>	<p><b>October 19</b> First day advance by mail ballots are mailed and advance in-person voting may begin</p>	<p><b>November 1</b> Deadline for voters to apply for advance mail ballot</p>
<p><b>October 18</b> Deadline to register to vote for general election</p>	<p><b>November 8</b> General election</p>	

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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

## Imm and Hoeting Attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

**SOPHIE IMM** of Phillipsburg and **CAPPI HOETING** of Stockton attended the 45th annual Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC) from July 15-21, 2022. The leadership camp was held near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and hosted 62 student leaders from Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming. These high schoolers were sponsored by 32 participating cooperatives across the four states and were selected based upon leadership skills, academic achievements, extracurricular activities and an interview.

During the camp, Imm and Hoeting learned how an electric cooperative is organized and operated by developing a model-cooperative. The campers elected a board of directors, appointed a general manager, established committees and attended daily membership meetings.

Camp participants also gained insight from educational seminars on leadership, online reputation management, conflict management, and co-op careers. HawkQuest brought in birds to talk about raptors and avian protection, linemen brought in a high voltage electricity demonstration unit, and the youth toured the Yampa Valley Electric community solar array.

Along with its professional development programs, CYLC included a visit to Mount Werner and downtown Steamboat Springs, whitewater rafting on the Colorado River, and other fun activities such as a volleyball tournament, swimming, talent show and a dance.

At the conclusion of the leadership camp, Imm and two of her peers were elected by a student vote as camp ambassadors, awarding them the opportunity to return to represent this year's campers at CYLC in 2023.

"I learned so much about leadership and relationships at this camp, and I got to do it surrounded by people who are just as eager to learn as me," Imm said.

"Before I came on this trip, I was expecting to be learning a lot of the day," Hoeting, who took the initiative with another camper to lead an optional devotional Sunday morning, said. "When I got to camp, I was so glad we had a good balance of fun time along with time to learn new things."

"Prairie Land Electric is

proud to continue our sponsorship of our co-op's student leaders at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp," Kirk Girard, CEO, said. "It is an honor to help provide students opportunities to grow in their leadership potential and develop the knowledge to further engage in our cooperative community."

Prairie Land sponsors the trip for two students each year. For more information on how to attend or send students to camp, contact Kenzie Griffiths at 785-877-3323.



Sophie Imm (left) of Phillipsburg and Cippi Hoeting of Stockton were sponsored by Prairie Land Electric to attend the CYLC this year.

## The Power of Preparation Continued from page 12A

- ▶ Keep neighbors and coworkers apprised of your emergency plans.
- ▶ Fill your car with gas.
- ▶ Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

### Caring for Vulnerable Family Members

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor to check in on them. If a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relative stay with you if feasible, otherwise call them daily. If you have an infant or young children, make certain you have ample formula, diapers, medication and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.

### Keeping Four-Legged Family Members Safe

For families with pets, having a plan in place in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will help reduce worry and stress especially during an emergency.

- ▶ Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and may wander off during an emergency.
- ▶ Microchip your pet and ensure the contact information is up to date.
- ▶ Store pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location.
- ▶ Create an emergency kit for pets (include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications and other supplies).

At Prairie Land Electric, we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.

## KEEP FOODS SAFE

### during and after a power outage

Refrigerated or frozen foods may not be safe to eat after a power outage. Use these tips to minimize food loss and reduce risk of illness.



#### Food Safety Tips

- 1 Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
- 2 Throw out any food with an unusual odor, color or texture.
- 3 Throw out perishable food in your refrigerator after four hours without power or a cold source, like a cooler with ice.



**24** Food in a half-full freezer will last 24 hours. Food in a full freezer will last 48 hours.

**4** Refrigerated food will last four hours. After four hours, place refrigerated foods in a cooler with ice.

**When in doubt, throw it out.**

## Fuel Your Generator Knowledge

Before you grab your portable generator to use it for backup power, there are important lifesaving safety steps you should know. It is best to familiarize yourself with how to use a generator properly before needing one. Before using a portable generator, be sure to do the following:

- ▶ **CHECK CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) DETECTORS.** Protect yourself and those you love by making sure there are battery-operated CO testers in your home that are working properly/have fresh batteries.
  - ▶ **READ THE INSTRUCTIONS.** Many people are tempted to skip this step, but incorrectly using a generator can cause CO poisoning, which is often deadly. These are instructions you should take the time to read.
  - ▶ **KNOW HOW TO USE ONE PROPERLY.** Operate generators at least 20 feet from doors and windows and never use one in any type of enclosed structure, such as a garage, shed or tent. If your RV has a generator, be sure to operate it safely to avoid CO poisoning.
  - ▶ **KEEP IT DRY.** If it is wet outside, place the portable generator on a tarp. If it is raining or snowing, position it under a portable canopy (but not under a carport).
  - ▶ **KEEP UTILITY WORKERS AND OTHERS SAFE.** Never plug a portable generator into a wall outlet. Never use a permanent generator without throwing the transfer switch. Doing either of these things can cause dangerous backfeed into the power grid.
  - ▶ **MAKE SURE THE TRANSFER SWITCH IS ENDORSED BY A REPUTABLE TESTING LABORATORY,** such as UL, and that the installation meets all applicable electrical codes.
  - ▶ **PLUG ITEMS DIRECTLY INTO A PORTABLE GENERATOR AND USE HEAVY-DUTY EXTENSION CORDS** that are in good working condition and are the correct gauge. The lower the gauge number and the thicker the cord, the more electricity it can safely carry; refer to the owner's manual for specifics. Do not plug one extension cord into another.
  - ▶ **LET THE GENERATOR COOL DOWN** before refueling. Also, store fuel safely.
  - ▶ **KEEP IT WELL MAINTAINED** and have it inspected regularly.
- To learn more about safe generator use and electrical safety in general, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

# NATIONAL FARM SAFETY and HEALTH WEEK

Farm Safety and Health Week is Sept. 18-24! Whether you live on a farm or in the city, always play it safe near power lines and other electrical equipment.

