



P.O. Box 360, 14935 U.S. Highway 36, Norton, KS 67654
785- 877-3323 or 800- 577-3323
www.prairielandelectric.com

**PRAIRIE LAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

2021 Trustee Election Process

The bylaws of the cooperative provide that the following positions will be elected in the 2021 trustee election:

- ▶ **DISTRICT 2** – Decatur, Norton and Phillips counties. **ERIC WITMER** of Phillipsburg currently holds this position.
- ▶ **DISTRICT 3** – Sheridan, Graham and Rooks counties. **ROBERT PAXSON** of Penokee currently holds this position.
- ▶ **DISTRICT 4** – Smith, Jewell, Osborne and Mitchell counties. **OTTO LEVIN** of Kensington currently holds this position.
- ▶ **DISTRICT 5** – Republic, Washington, Cloud and Clay counties. **WILLIAM L. PETERSON** of Clifton currently holds this position.

A nominating committee has been appointed to meet and nominate candidates for these positions. If you are interested in being nominated for one of the positions, contact a member of the committee to discuss

your nomination. The committee will meet on Dec. 15, 2020, at 1 p.m. at the Prairie Land Electric office at 14935 U.S. Highway 36 in Norton.

The Members of that Committee are:

- ▶ **ROGER ZWEYGARDT** – St. Francis 785-332-3458
- ▶ **DICK E. AMES** – Long Island 785-854-7695
- ▶ **RODNEY BELLEAU** – Hill City 785-421-8149
- ▶ **DENNIS HANSEN** – Smith Center 785-282-3211
- ▶ **JERRY STENBERG** – Clyde 785-243-0129

Nominations may also be made by petition. Interested candidates should contact the Norton office to request the appropriate form.

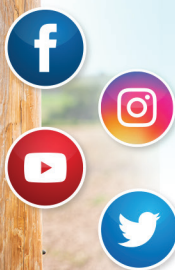
The petition must be signed by not less than 25 members of the district for whom the trustee is to be elected. Petitions need to be delivered to the

Norton office by **5 P.M. ON JAN. 11, 2021**. All nominations shall be posted in the Norton office.

The election shall be conducted on an “at large” basis; therefore every member of Prairie Land Electric is eligible to vote for all positions in the election. Upon completion of the nominating process, voting materials will be mailed to Prairie Land members **BY JAN. 25, 2021**. The bylaws, as amended, require the use of mail ballots for trustee elections.

Ballots and a postage paid return envelope will be furnished for the member to use. Ballots must be returned to the Norton office by **5 P.M. ON FEB. 10, 2021**. An Election and Credentials committee will count the ballots by Feb. 20 and the election results will then be announced.

If you have questions regarding this year's election, please call the Prairie Land office in Norton at 785-877-3323 or 800-577-3323.



Do you like to watch linemen in action or find out more about large outages as they happen? We'd love to share more information with you on social media. Click the social links on our website, or search for PLECOOP on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or YouTube.



Be a Smart Cookie

Holiday Baking Tips

TEST SMOKE DETECTORS

Make sure they are working properly.

WATCH YOUR SLEEVES

Loose sleeves are not ideal when in the kitchen.

PUT A LID ON IT

Have lids handy in case of a grease fire.

OLD THINGS DON'T BECOME NEW

Don't use appliances in disrepair.

HOW THE COOKIE CRUMBLES

Consider having a fire extinguisher on hand.

WHERE THERE'S HEAT, THERE COULD BE FIRE

Keep flammables such as pot holders away from the stove.

NOT CHILD'S PLAY

Keep children and pets away from cooking areas.

KEEPING TIME

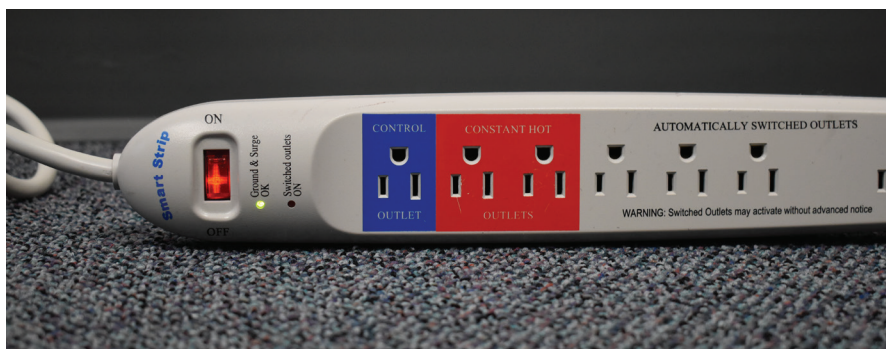
Use a timer when the oven or stove is on.

STAY WITH IT

Don't leave the room if you are broiling, frying or simmering food.

PAY ATTENTION

Take a nap after the feast.



Gift Idea: Smart Power Strip

Electricity vampires can account for up to 20% of a person's energy use. Smart Power Strips make it easier to manage this waste of power in a passive way. You decide, based on which plugs you use, which devices need to be "always on," or if they can shut off at the same time you turn off the main device. For instance, you can't use your game console or fire stick without the television, so they might as well be off when the television is off. Some models work on time limits.

Depending on the exact model of smart power strip and manufacturer, some may offer additional features such as surge protection, a ground and surge status display or even USB

charging outlets. When purchasing a smart power strip, consider any additional requirements you have to fit your home or small office needs such as right-angle plugs, telephone/modem/ethernet surge protection, motion-sensing remote to control specific outlets, the length of the power cord, and any warranty being offered.

Smart power strips and surge protectors are a less expensive option to gain some smart technology without upgrading all appliances and devices to smart models. Using smart power strips can reduce a home's overall energy usage, which equates to savings on your energy bill.

Watch Out for Scams in Our Area

We are getting more reports of members receiving phone calls or emails that demand immediate payment for a purported overdue electricity bill or you'll be disconnected.

If you get one of these calls, hang up immediately. If you get an email, do not click on any links. Call our office at 800-577-3323 as soon as possible, even after normal business hours. When incidents are reported, we typically make an announcement on our Facebook page to warn other members.

Prairie Land Electric has a written policy that must be followed before electricity can



be disconnected and it includes sending you a disconnect notice in the mail.

You can also check your account status at any time day or night using SmartHub. You can connect to SmartHub from our website, www.prairielandelectric.com, or use the SmartHub app on your mobile phone.

Congratulations Prairie Land Employees!

Prairie Land extends its congratulations and appreciation to Blake Krien and Scott Georgeson for their years of service to our members and the cooperative.



Blake Krien
15 years

BLAKE KRIEN

began his employment with Prairie Land on Nov. 10, 2005, as an apprentice lineman in Bird City.

In 2009, he advanced to

journeyman lineman in Saint Francis, the position he currently holds.

Krien and his wife, Cassondra, have two children, Maddox, 7, and Taycee, 5.

In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with family, helping his dad on the farm and being outdoors.

SCOTT GEORGESON

began his employment with Prairie Land on Nov. 15, 2005, as an apprentice lineman on the construction crew in Norton.

In 2007, he advanced to journeyman lineman. He currently holds the position of metering and apparatus technician.

Georgeson was born and raised in Norton. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with family and working on old cars.



Scott Georgeson
15 years

Prairie Land Welcomes New Employee



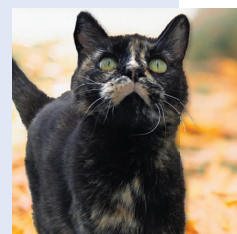
Chad Manning

CHAD MANNING began his employment with Prairie Land on Sept. 21, 2020, as the accounting manager. He received his bachelor's degree from Fort Hays State and is currently pursuing his MBA through Pittsburg State. Manning previously worked in the banking industry.

Manning was born and raised in Norton. He and his wife, Erin, have three children, Carly, 8; Avery, 8; and Campbell, 5. In his spare time, he enjoys working out and playing the guitar.

KILOWATT'S TIPS

Illuminate Your Holiday Season with Safety



Kilowatt

Don't let the bright and colorful sparkle of the season distract you from taking the precautions needed to stay safe when decorating. Prairie Land provides these tips on safe holiday decorating:

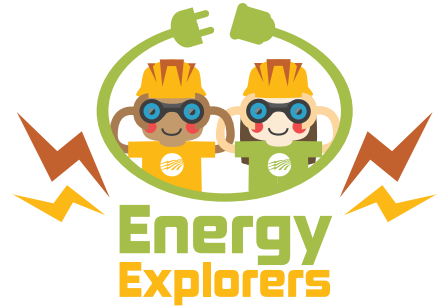
- ▶ If you are decorating with an artificial tree, make sure you choose one with fire resistance protection.
- ▶ With a real tree, make sure that the needles are green and sturdy with a trunk that is sticky with resin. These are indicators that your tree is well-hydrated.
- ▶ Never place your tree near heat-emitting devices, such as space heaters and radiators.
- ▶ Use only holiday lights that have been safety tested and have the UL label.
- ▶ Before decorating, check each light strand for broken sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs.
- ▶ Do not string together more than three standard-size sets of lights or you could risk overheating.
- ▶ When decorating outside, always be sure to look up and double-check that you and any equipment, such as a ladder or a light strand, are a minimum 10 feet away from power lines.
- ▶ Take extra care not to throw strings of lights over tree branches that are near power lines and service connections.
- ▶ Keep electric cords out of high traffic areas. Do not run them through doorways; staple, nail, or tack them to the wall; or hide them under rugs or carpets.
- ▶ Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving home.

KILOWATT was adopted by Prairie Land after the December 2006 ice storm. She now brings you energy and safety tips each month.



ENERGY SAVINGS PLAN FOR THE FAMILY

There are several easy ways you and your family can save energy at home! Print this page, assign each energy-saving task, then place it on your fridge so your family can work together to save energy — and money.



WAY TO SAVE ENERGY	ASSIGNED TO:
Turn off lights in empty rooms.	
Replace any incandescent and/or CFL bulbs with LED bulbs.	
Turn off electronics that aren't in use (TVs, gaming consoles, etc.).	
Unplug phone chargers that aren't in use.	
Turn off ceiling fans in empty rooms.	
Adjust the thermostat when you leave the house. (Set it higher in the summer and lower in the winter.)	
Once a week, make a meal that doesn't require cooking in the kitchen. (Make PB&Js or cook outside.)	
Make sure all doors and windows are closed when the air conditioner or heater is running.	

