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**PRAIRIE LAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

Power On: October is National Co-op Month

This year has been far from typical, and we've all faced some challenges we never would have expected. As an essential service provider, we've had to adapt quickly to changes and do whatever it takes to "Power On."

October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are reflecting on the essential role we play in our communities. It's our annual reminder of our core principles and the cooperative difference.

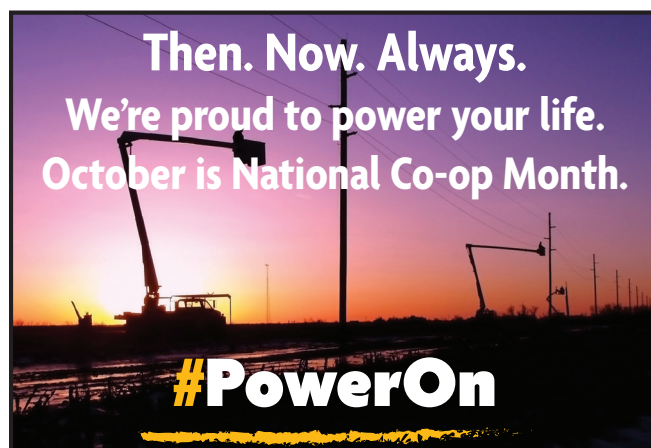
Electric cooperatives belong to the communities they serve and operate on a not-for-profit, cost-of-service basis. They are independent businesses that operate for the benefit of the members. Your electric cooperative is an energy source you can trust to look out for the community's best interests.

Serving 56% of the nation's landmass, in primarily rural areas, America's electric cooperatives sell only 12% of the nation's electricity while building over 42% of the lines. Despite this disparity, they operate efficiently enough that they returned

more than a billion dollars in capital credits to their members last year.

Last month marked the 25th anniversary of the Seven Cooperative Principles being adopted as a part of the Statement of the Cooperative Identity. Those principles are listed in the graphic below.

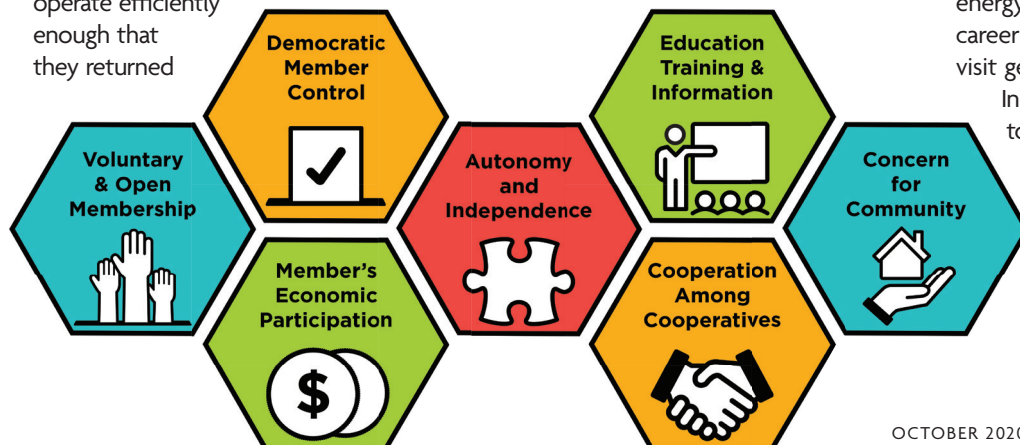
We hope you'll share in our pride for the service provided by our cooperative, and consider the current issues facing this industry when you vote in November. While no candidates are ever endorsed or recommended, the non-partisan project "Co-ops Vote" is designed to keep us all informed on



the issues that support cooperatives and their role in the communities they serve.

Cooperatives are also a great place to work, so we wanted to invite anyone curious about the industry to attend a virtual career event this month on Oct. 21. "Energy Careers 2020" is being offered at no charge by the Center for Energy Workforce Development. The event features recent interns and young energy professionals sharing their career journey. For more information, visit getintoenergy.com.

In 1938, neighbors joined together to improve their quality of life by providing electricity to rural communities. Prairie Land Electric was built by the community to serve the community, and that's what we'll continue to do — Power On.



Preparing for the Big Hunt: Consider Electrical Safety, Too

As you prepare for hunting season, keep in mind that along with general hunting safety, electrical safety should also be top of mind.

You might be preoccupied and excited about the big hunt, but be sure to look up for power lines. Never place a tree stand near a power line. Contact with the power line, utility pole, or related equipment can alter the electricity's path to ground, sending electricity through anyone or anything that comes too close or in direct contact with the power source. Even coming within 10 feet of the line can cause an arc, transferring energy from the power line/source to an object or person.

In addition, do not shoot near or toward power lines, utility poles, transformers or substations. Stray bullets or pellets could damage equipment, possibly interrupting electric service.

Even more concerning, they could drop a power line to the ground, causing a hazardous scenario: Those who get within 50 feet of the downed line could be shocked or electrocuted.

Prairie Land Electric and Safe Electricity remind hunting enthusiasts of these electrical safety tips:

- ▶ Familiarize yourself with the area before heading out to hunt. Take note of power lines and equipment, especially when hunting in densely wooded areas.
- ▶ Observe all signs or postings that advise electrical safety, especially when scouting a location for your tree stand.
- ▶ Do not use power poles to support a tree stand.
- ▶ Do not place a tree stand near a power line or pole.
- ▶ Be in the habit of looking up and out for power lines and do not come



within 10 feet of an overhead line or pole when setting up or taking down a stand.

- ▶ Never climb a utility pole.

Please report any damage to a line or other related equipment to us so we can address it. Although we perform routine maintenance, damage may not be noticed for weeks or months due to the vast amount of lines that cover our service area.

Of course, always take the time to observe general hunting safety measures as well. Stay safe out there!

For more information about safety around power lines and other sources of electricity, go to SafeElectricity.org.



**DON'T FORGET:
SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK
ONE HOUR ON NOV. 1**



If You Depend on Life Support, Please Let Us Know

Prairie Land Electric strives to maintain the best possible service with minimum outages. However, outages do occur. We request the name and address of any cooperative member who depends on life support equipment.

We keep a register of members on life support equipment, and it is important this information be current and accurate. We will make every effort to give priority service restoration to members on life support systems. However, Prairie Land advises that it is imperative for the member to have an alternate plan, such as a standby generator or a family/friend's house to stay during outages.

If you or a family member depend on life support equipment, please contact our office at 800-577-3323 or 785-877-3323 to request a form to complete. Forms are also available at www.prairielandelectric.com.

Cold Weather Accommodation

Effective Nov. 1 through March 31

Prairie Land Electric Cooperative wants members to have the electric service needed to keep their homes warm during the winter. Prairie Land also recognizes the customer's responsibility to make arrangements to pay for those services. The Cold Weather Accommodation was designed to ensure both goals are met.

What does the Cold Weather Accommodation mean for me?

The Cold Weather Accommodation helps existing members maintain electric service for their homes during the winter. You must make payment arrangements with Prairie Land.

How do I qualify?

If you can't pay your entire electric bill, call Prairie Land to make payment arrangements: Agree to pay 1/12 of the overdue amount of your bill, plus 1/12 of your current bill, all disconnection and connection fees, and agree to pay the remainder in equal payments over the next 11 months; or negotiate a payment plan to pay the overdue amount off sooner than 12 months.

Remember, you must also pay your current monthly bill while paying off the overdue amount. If you are behind in a previous payment plan and cannot catch up, you need to make a new payment agreement with Prairie Land.

What will Prairie Land do?

Prairie Land will inform you of the Cold Weather Accommodation payment plan as well as other available payment plans. Remember, under the Cold

Weather Accommodation, you always have the option of spreading your payments over 12 months.

Prairie Land will send written notice to members 10 days before disconnection, plus attempt a phone or personal contact the day before.

Prairie Land will inform members of agencies offering funds to help pay electric bills.

Can I be disconnected during the Cold Weather Accommodation?

Prairie Land won't disconnect your primary residence when the temperature is forecasted to drop below 35 degrees or be in the mid-to-low-30s over the next 24 hours, except in certain circumstances.

To prevent disconnection when it is 35 degrees or above, or to be reconnected regardless of temperature, you must make payment arrangements with Prairie Land.

Prairie Land may start the final notification and disconnection process if there is a 48-hour forecast of temperatures above 35 degrees.

If the 48-hour forecast changes before the period ends and there is a forecast temperature below 35 degrees, Prairie Land will not disconnect until there is another Cold Weather Rule 48-hour forecast of temperatures above 35 degrees.

PLEASE NOTE: The Cold Weather Accommodation applies only to existing residential members at their primary residence and is subject to the Rules and Regulations of the cooperative.

KILOWATT'S TIPS

Prepare Your Furnace for Winter

You probably haven't given much thought to your furnace since last winter, but giving it some attention before you need it can make a difference.

Make a habit of cleaning your furnace annually in the fall months. Removing a season of built-up debris (especially if you have pets) can reduce the risk of fire and make your furnace run efficiently.

Once you have a clean furnace, remember to replace your furnace filter during the winter. Replacing a dirty filter will increase airflow and make your home more energy-efficient. And as an added benefit, you will have cleaner air in your home.



Kilowatt

Oct. 4-10 is National Fire Prevention Week

Have you done everything you can to protect your home from electrical fires? Some tragedies are preventable with these tips:

- ▶ Don't overload extension cords, and use them only for temporary wiring.
- ▶ Check appliance cords and plugs for cracked or broken insulation, or ground pins that have been removed from three-pronged plugs.
- ▶ Do not place cords or wires under rugs or high traffic areas.
- ▶ When plugging in an appliance, notice whether switch plates and outlet covers are discolored or warm to the touch. This would indicate a problem that needs to be checked out.
- ▶ Have a working smoke alarm.
- ▶ Practice a home escape with your family

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

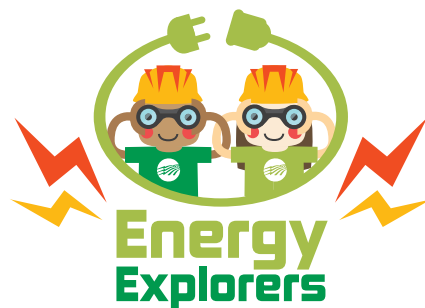


HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY
Halloween!

CO-OP MONTH FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Did you know October is National Co-op Month?

Complete the fill-in-the-blank activity below to learn about a few ways co-ops are unique! Use the word bank if you need help.



1. Co-ops and their members work together toward a common _____.
2. Co-ops are _____ organizations, so they understand the communities they serve.
3. All co-ops operate according to the same set of seven cooperative _____.
4. Concern for _____ is the seventh cooperative principle.
5. Co-ops don't have customers; we have _____.
6. Co-ops are _____ by the members they serve.

WORD BANK

LED
LOCAL

GOAL
PRINCIPLES

MEMBERS
COMMUNITY

Answer Key: 1) goal 2) local 3) principles 4) community 5) members 6) led