

Volts and Jolts

Published monthly for the members of

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

SERVING THE FOUR-COUNTY AREA OF MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE AND POLK

VOL. 47 - NO. 5

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

MARCH 2012

2011 **Annual** Report





to the 74th Annual Meeting of the Membership of

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Imperial Room, Ralph Engelstad Arena

Thief River Falls, Minnesota

9:00 a.m.	Registration begins
	Free coffee and doughnuts
10:00 a.m.	EntertainmentVernon Rogalla
10:30 a.m.	Call to orderBonnie Christians, President
	National AnthemJordanne Walsh
	Invocation
	Introductions

BUSINESS SESSION

	Notice of meeting and affidavit of mai	iling
	Establishment of quorum	
	Minutes of 2011 meeting	
	President's report	Bonnie Christians
		Roger Johanneck
d	Financial report	Shirley Bregier
	Minnkota report	Robert "Mac" McLennan, CEO, Minnkota Power
	Election of directors	Bonnie Christians
	Question and answer session	
	Adjournment of business session	
	Award Presentations	



Milton R. Young Station

EPA approves state plan for Young Station

The regional haze debate has become clear.

The United States EPA has approved North Dakota's State Implementation Plan (SIP) regarding nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions for Units 1 and 2 at Minnkota's Milton R. Young Station (MRYS).

This final action regarding regional haze was released by the EPA on March 2.

It means that the EPA has approved that portion of the state of North Dakota's SIP that allows Over-Fired Air (OFA)+Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction (SNCR) technology to be used for NOx reduction at the Young Station in complying with the Regional Haze Rule.

The EPA also approved the SIP for Basin Electric Cooperative's Leland Olds Station (LOS) Unit 2. (5828003.05 William Mulcahy) However, the EPA's action does require two plants to make changes. A partial FIP means Basin's Ante-Valley Station (AVS) must install low-NOx burners and Great River Energy's Coal Creek Station must install SNCR. Both of those use pulverized coal-fired boilers. The Young Station and Leland Olds

Unit 2 have cyclone-fired boilers. In July 2011, the EPA issued a proposed FIP that would have required the MRYS and LOS Unit 2 to install Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) technology. SCRs are much more expensive than OFA+SNCR technology and have not proven to work on cyclonefired boilers using North Dakota lignite coal.

"We are pleased the EPA recognized the state of North Dakota properly identified the right technology for our Young Station," said Mac McLennan, Minnkota president & CEO. "A number of people have worked hard on this issue for many years. This is a victory for the coexistence of clean, clear air and affordable energy.

The EPA and other agencies have been (4402036.08 Kenneth Mooney) monitoring visibility in national parks and wilderness areas since 1988. In 1999, the EPA announced a major effort to improve air quality in national parks and wilderness areas. The Regional Haze Rule calls for state and federal agencies to work together to improve visibility in 156 national parks and wilderness areas, including Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

A December 2011 ruling weighed heavily in the EPA's decision to approve the SIP for the Young Station and Leland Olds Unit 2.

In that case, U.S. District Court Judge Daniel L. Hovland ruled in favor of the state of North Dakota in a dispute resolution process is Best Available Control Technology (BACT) for NOx at the Young Station.

The Judge denied both the EPA's motion to Stay the process until regional haze is settled and the motion for dispute resolution that would have required the state of North Dakota to redo the BACT determination.

Hovland ruled that the state's finding that BACT for NOx at the Young Station was SNCR – and not SCR – was not unreasonable nor was it arbitrary and capricious.

"In light of the court's decision and the views we have expressed in our BART (Best Available Retrofit Technology) guidelines on the relationship of BACT to BART, we have concluded that it would be

inappropriate to proceed with our proposed disapproval of SNCR as BART and our proposed FIP to impose SCR at MRYS 1 and 2 and LOS 2," the EPA said. "While LOS was not the subject of the BACT determination, the same reasoning that applies to MRYS 1 and 2 also applies to LOS 2. It is the same type of boiler burning North Dakota lignite coal, and North Dakota's views regarding technical infeasibility that the U.S. District Court upheld in the MRYS BACT case apply to it

as well." Sens. John Hoeven and Kent Conrad, Rep. Rick Berg and Gov. Jack Dalrymple were pleased with the EPA's decision regarding the clean air plan.

Rather than a more costly federal plan (\$500 million for Minnkota alone), the agreement will provide North Dakota with flexibility to implement sensible and cost-effective standards for improving visibility in selected areas of the state.

The announcement followed meetings held between the delega tion and EPA officials, including a meeting with Administrator Lisa Jackson last December.

The delegation has remained committed to affirming the state of North Dakota's ability to manage its own implementation plan, citing the state's longstanding commitment to meeting all Clean Air Act National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and significant progress the state has already made in reducing haze in the region.

Hoeven says the decision is a win for the state and local control.

"Our state has long demonstrated that we can promote strong economic growth and job creation, while doing a good job of protecting our air, land and water," he said.

Incumbent directors to be re-elected

Red Lake Electric Cooperative's current directors from districts 2, 7 and 8 will be re-elected at the Cooperative's annual meeting March 28. Directors to serve an additional three-year term include: Stacy Blawat, Thief River Falls, District 2; Kelly Lundeen, Trail, District 7; and Robert Finstad, Thief River Falls, District 8.

Each candidate was the unanimous nominee from their respective dis-

trict meetings. There were (5907001.02 Kurt C. Harmoning) no nominations by petition, therefore they are uncontested candidates.

Stacy Blawat

Stacy Blawat, Thief River Falls, will be re-elected as the District 2 Director. This will be her first three-year term, following a special one-year term.

Awarding of prizes

Lunch and entertainment

Blawat and her husband Bernard reside on their farm east of Holt, very near to the farm Stacy grew up at. Their children include Mitchell and Anthony, who work in Thief River Falls, and Rachel, who is in second grade at St. Bernard's Catholic School in Thief River

The Blawats are members of St. Bernard's Catholic Church. Stacy is a stay-at-home mother, serving the role as a homemaker.

"I have enjoyed learning about the inner workings of our cooperative this past year," commented Blawat. "The quality of the employees and their hard work to keep our electricity both dependable and affordable has become clear. At this time, the EPA has backed off on the nitrous oxide and regional haze issues so the future of



Stacy Blawat

rates looks more stable. I look forward to representing you to help ensure a bright future for our coop-

Kelly Lundeen

Kelly Lundeen, Trail, will be reelected as the director from District 7. He has been the district representative for 18 years. Lundeen also serves as Red Lake Electric's representative on the Minnkota Power Cooperative board of directors.

Lundeen and his wife Connie reside in Deer Park Township of Pennington County. They have five children and 12 grandchildren. Lundeen is involved with grain farming with his brother Gary. He is a member of Oak Park Lutheran Church, rural Oklee. As hobbies, Lundeen enjoys hunting and fish-

"I enjoy serving as a director of Red Lake Electric," stated Lundeen. "It has been a learning experience and I look forward to continuing to serve the members of the Cooperative."



Kelly Lundeen

Robert Finstad

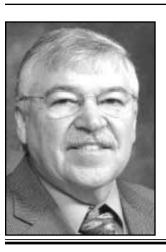
Robert Finstad, Thief River Falls, will be re-elected as the District 8 Director. He has represented the members of the district for 13 years. He currently serves as vice president of the board of directors.

Finstad and his wife Stephanie, along with their two children Dylan and Jerzie, reside on the family farm in Rocksbury Township of Pennington County. They are members of United Methodist Church in Thief River Falls. Finstad is selfemployed in the construction business, does some grain farming, and drives school bus for the Thief River Falls School District.

"I appreciate the confidence my fellow members have bestowed on me," said Finstad. "As a director of the Cooperative, I have tried to act in the interest of all members and will continue to do so.



Robert Finstad



Manager's **Comments**

by Roger Johanneck

Good news!

If you have not yet read the front page article about the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approving the state of North Dakota's plan for Minnkota's Young station, I encourage you to do so. The recent news from EPA accepting the environmental equipment upgrades to Minnkota's Miltion R. Young station as the Best Available Control Technology (BACT), is just what the doctor ordered.

If the EPA would not have accepted the state plan and required a different BACT, Minnkota was looking at additional equipment costs in the neighborhood of \$500 million at their Young Station. On top of the new equipment price tag was an annual operating cost of the Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) equipment projected at \$100 million per year. When you convert those large numbers into something we can more easily relate to, like your monthly bill from Red Lake Electric Cooperative, your rates would have increased 30% to cover this expense.

I thank all of you that took the time to respond to our request for (2107001.05 Dennis E. Hanson) help on this issue. I heard from a number of members who said they posted their comments at the StopEPAND.com website. It is great to see this issue finally put to rest and that your effort to help influence this outcome was reward-

Annual Meeting

Last month, members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative received the official notice of the Cooperative's annual meeting which was printed in the February issue of the Volts and Jolts. This month members will notice that we have included a copy of the Cooperative's 2011 annual report and more information about the business that we'll take care of the day of the Annual meeting. I encourage you to look over the annual report; in addition to facts and figures that give you a financial picture of your Cooperative, the report addresses some of the issues that are impacting the way we do business. The report also covers some of the work activities that took place in 2011.

I'd like to add my personal invitation to all members to join us, if you can, at the Cooperative's annual meeting on Wednesday March 28th in Thief River Falls.

The Gazette . . . only \$29 in Red Lake County

Informational Web Sites

The following is a list of Web sites that can provide information and education in reference to electrical safety and energy conservation. These Web sites are listed as links on Red Lake Electric Cooperative's Web site at www.redlakeelectric.com.

- Electrical Safety Foundation International: www.esfi.org
- Alliance to Save Energy: www.ase.org
- US Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov/greenhomes
- Energy Star: www.energystar.gov
- Minnesota Safety Council: www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org
- Safe Electricity: www.safeelectricity.org Lighting Controls Association: www.aboutlightingcontrols.org
- US Consumer Product Safety Commission: www.cpsc.gov

It is the mission of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to enhance the

quality of life for people of our service area by consistently providing

quality electric service and other valued services while holding our

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One of the Minnkota Power Systems

employees, our community and our environment in high regard.

RLEC Closed Good Friday

In observance of Easter, Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Friday, April 6. In case of an electrical outage or emergency, call the after-hour phone number: 218-253-2200.

Happy Easter!



Member Service Department

by Kevin Reich

2012 marks RLEC 75th year

Later this year marks a milestone for Red Lake Electric Cooperative as it will begin its 75th year of operation in July. March 28 will be the 74th annual meeting of the Cooperative.

RLEC was incorporated on July 30, 1938 with its principal place of business at Red Lake Falls. The names of the incorporators who also constituted the first board included: Fred Berberich, Erskine; C.W. Beyer, Red Lake Falls; Selmer Walhaug, Oklee; M.F. Daily, Red Lake Falls; George Remick, Red Lake Falls; Jos. W. Ste. Marie, Red Lake Falls; Octave Varin, Brooks; Victor Medchill, Plummer.

The first meeting was held July 8, 1938 at the Red Lake County courthouse with all the above named incorporators present. The election of officers was the first order of business with Jos. W. Ste. Marie elected president, C.W. Beyer vice president and Fred Berberich secretary - treasurer. The first name of the Cooperative adopted was Red Lake County Electric Cooperative Association.

While Red Lake County Electric Cooperative Association was being (1328001.04 Nathan Bukowski) formed there was also a movement in Pennington County forming Pennington County Cooperative Power Association. In order to strengthen both Cooperatives the two associations merged in February of 1939. Following the merger the following directors were elected: E.E. Hill, president; Carl Swanson, vice president; Stephen Singer, secretary -

treasurer; C.W. Beyer, Jos W. Ste. Marie, George Remick, J.G. Newland and Mons Engelsatd.

At the first annual meeting of the stockholders held March 8, 1939 at the Community Hall, Red Lake Falls, 253 members registered with S.E. Hunt, Thief River Falls, being the first member to register.

At a special meeting of the board of directors on February 22, 1940, it was agreed to have the words "County" and "Association" stricken from the Cooperative's name and to add "Inc.". For the last 72 years the Cooperative has operated as Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

The first official publication of the Cooperative newsletter under the title of "Volts and Jolts" was issued in December of 1940. The name was created by suggestion of the Cooperative's former maintenance man, August Bourque. 'Volts" suggested the power that is distributed and "Jolts" suggested the kickback one gets if one would come in contact with the power

By January of 1941, 63 farms were wired and waiting for electric service. Excitement reigned in the Terrebonne community on Friday, March 14, 1941, when the farms of Dona Rivard and Roy Logan were energized. And so for 71 years continuous, RLEC has been providing electrical service to its members.

As the Cooperative continues to serve throughout its 75th year our commitment to you is just as great in 2012 as it was in 1938. We look forward to being your electrical servant another year.

Know how to stay safe after storms

Severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, and flooding can leave more than damage in their wake-they can leave hidden dangers as well. In some cases, more lives are lost after the storm than from the storm itself.

"When you're dealing with storm cleanup or flood-damaged property, the prospect of an electrical accident is probably not top of mind," says Safe Electricity's Molly Hall. "But it's the first thing you should think of before you go outside, step foot into a flooded area, or enter a storm-damaged building."

When outside, stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Warn others to stay away, and contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

Do not touch downed power lines, and do not touch objects or puddles of water in contact with those lines. There is no way to know if they are energized. Encountering these objects can be as hazardous as coming into contact with a downed power line

As part of its "Teach Learn Care TLC" campaign, Safe Electricity urges parents and other caregivers to make sure children are aware of these hazards as well.

Safe Electricity offers other precautions following storms:

If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away, and contact emergency personnel or Red Lake Electric. Never drive over a downed line, as it could pull down poles and other items along its path.

Be alert at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings, and treat road intersections with traffic signals as four-way stops before proceeding with caution.

Before re-entering storm-dam-

aged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off. Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you cannot reach your breaker box safely, call Red Lake Electric to shut off power at the meter.

Never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances, or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords, or wires while you are wet or standing in water.

Keep electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces. Do not use electric yard tools if it is raining or the ground is

Electric motors in appliances that have been drenched or submerged should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned before they are put back into service. It may be necessary to replace them. Do not use any water-damaged appliance until a professional has checked it out.

If, after a storm or disaster, the power to your home is out for a prolonged period, know important safety rules, such as never using a charcoal or gas grill to cook inside.

If you use a portable generator, be sure a transfer safety switch has been installed, or connect appliances directly to the generator. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the home to power lines—what is known as "backfeed." Backfeed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.

For additional information, tips and safety videos, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Safe Electricity is the safety outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization with more than 400 electric cooperative members and many others who share the mission of educating the public about electrical safety and energy efficiency.

GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

Call before digging! It's the law! 1-800-252-1166

From the **Mission Statement** Mail Bag

Dear RLEC:

Thanks very much for the good informational meeting you had in Holt. Jay and I would like to thank you very much for the fillet knife he won and I won an extension cord. Thanks also for the good service.

Sincerely, **Jay and Carol Garthus** Middle River

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Things you should know about your electric service

BILLINGS AND COLLECTION

You will receive your energy bill on or near the 20th of each month.

Payment of your monthly energy bill is due on the 20th of the month. You may pay your bill in person at RLEC during office hours, use the 24-hour driveup drop box located next to the RLEC office, by Auto Pay, or by mail. Payment must be in the office, drop box, Auto Pay, or in the mail, as evidenced by the postmark, by the 5th day of the following month to avoid a late payment charge. A 1 1/2% monthly late payment charge will be computed on delinquent energy bills, the minimum late payment charge will be \$1.00.

If your payment is not received by the 15th of the month, a final notice of disconnection statement will be included on your following bill. The final notice statement will notify you when your electric service will be disconnected if the delinquent amount remains unpaid. If an employee is sent to disconnect your electric service, a \$50 collection fee will be charged to your account, even if you pay the col-

To have a disconnected service reconnected, all amounts owing, a \$50 reconnection fee, and a security deposit must be paid. If the service must be reconnected after normal working hours, a \$100 reconnection fee must be paid.

BAD CHECKS

A \$15 charge will be levied each time a check is returned because of nonsufficient funds, account being closed or payment stopped.

OUTAGES

following:

only.

In case your electricity goes out, please do the

- 1. Check your fuses or breakers at the yard pole or meter pedestal.
- 2. Call your neighbor to see if they are out of electricity also.
- 3. Call the RLEC office (218-253-2168 or 1-800-245-6068) during working hours or 218-253-2200 after hours. We will accept collect calls for outages

METER TESTS

RLEC has a schedule in place to have its meters periodically tested for accuracy. Results from these tests show that meters generally slow down with age; however, if you think that your meter is recording too much usage, RLEC will test it for accuracy. You must pay a test fee in advance of the test. If the meter test shows that the meter was inaccurate, the test fee will be refunded to you.

STOPPED METERS

If you find your meter has stopped and you are using electricity, please contact the office immediately so we can replace it. Average consumption will be billed to the member for the time the meter was stopped so there is no advantage in not reporting a stopped meter.

METER READINGS

An automated meter reading system is utilized to obtain monthly meter readings. Although the system is normally reliable, there is always a chance that the correct reading has not been transmitted to the office for billing. Customers should periodically read their meter and compare it to the reading on the billing statement. If the actual reading is not close to the billing statement reading, please call the office.

GENERAL SERVICE RATES

Facilities charge variable \$27 to \$35 month April-December9.5¢ Kwh Multiphase users add \$22/month cost of service

Standby, \$12/month (meter disconnected but the power line retained; standby is not available on services larger than 15 KVA transformer capacity).

Security light: high pressure sodium, \$8/month; mercury vapor, \$9/month; water heater flat credit, \$7/month (January-April billing); off-peak equipment charge, \$5.50/month per heat meter; off-peak energy rate: 5.5¢/kWh long-term control, 7.5¢/kWh short-term control.

The Red Lake Electric Cooperative

WE PROUDLY PRESENT TO YOU





It's short and simple! Red Lake Electric Cooperative employees will meet or exceed your expectations of friendly, courteous service and will meet any commitments they make to you. If your expectations of the service provided by our employees is not met, please contact me at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative office, 253-2168. You will receive \$5.00 for your inconvenience and our promise to serve you better in the future. Our employees' commitment to quality customer service makes this guarantee possible.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.

VOLTS & JOLTS

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ICE PRESIDENT
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DIRECTORSKelly Lundeen,
Steven Linder, Peter Mosbeck,
Colette Kujava, Randy Versdahl, Stacy Blawa

Subscription Rate\$2.50 per year

NOTICE

ROGER JOHANNECK

General Manager

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of the Volts & Jolts are the names and account numbers of five RLEC members. They will appear within the articles in parenthesis (9999999.99 Roger P. Member). If you find your name and account number, clip it out and send it with your next payment. You will be credited with \$5 on your electric bill.

Recipe corner

Barbeque Beans

- 1/2 lb. ground beef
- 1/2 large onion, chopped
- 1/4 medium green pepper, chopped
- 2 celery ribs, chopped
- 1/2 c. packed brown sugar
- 1/2 c. ketchup
- 1/2 tsp. ground ginger Dash ground cloves
- 2 cans (31 oz. each) pork and beans

In a large skillet, brown beef with onion, green pepper and celery until meat is browned and vegetables are tender. Drain. Stir in brown sugar, ketchup, ginger and cloves. Add beans and mix well. Spoon into 2-1/2 quart casserole. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 1 to 1-1/2 hours or until beans are as thick as desired. Yield: 8 to 10 servings.

Macadamia Pecan Cookies

- 1-1/2 c. butter
- 1 c. white sugar
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 4 c. flour
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 3 c. toffee chips
- 2-1/2 c. pecans or macadamia nuts

Cream butter and sugar together. Gradually add flour, baking soda and salt. Mix in the toffee chips and pecans or macadamia nuts. You can also add chocolate chips if you would like. Drop onto a cookie sheet with an ice cream scoop. Slightly flatten balls before baking. Bake on the middle rack for approximately 15 minutes at 350 degrees.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Operating Report

MONTHLY COMPARISON

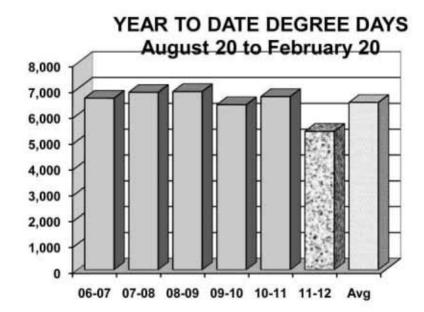
	JANUARY	JANUARY
	2011	2012
Total Revenue	1,385,159	\$ 1,415,562
Total Margins\$	223,802	\$ 129,330
Cost of Power	896,856	\$ 990,410
KWH's Purchased	18,013,126	15,408,258
Capital Credits Paid to Estates\$	5,342	\$ 617

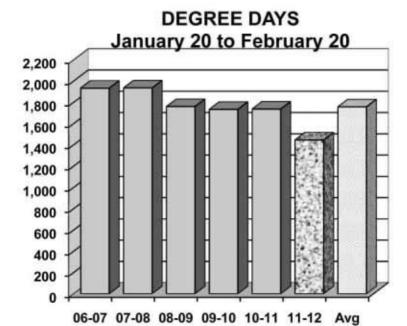
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

J	ANUARY	JANUARY
	2011	2012
Total Revenue	,385,159	\$ 1,415,562
Total Margins\$	223,802	\$ 139,330
Cost of Power	896,856	\$ 990,410
KWH's Purchased 18,	,013,126	15,408,258
New Service Connections	0	1
Customers Served	5,162	5,222
Capital Credits Paid to Estates\$	5,342	\$ 617
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,324	2,324
Underground	239	245
-		

DEGREE DAYS

To determine degree days, you must calculate the daily mean temperature for the time period you are measuring. Degree day computation is based on the assumption that a building does not require any heat if the outside temperature averages 65 degrees during a 24-hour period. To obtain a degree day figure, the high temperature and the low temperature for the day are added and the total divided by two. That figure is then subtracted from 65. For example, if the high temperature was 30 degrees and the low temperature 10 degrees, the figure would be 30+10=40; 40/2=20; 65-20=45. This would be a 45-degree day. The higher the degree day figure, the more heat required to warm your home.





Lemon Cheesecake

- 1 (3 oz.) pkg. lemon Jell-O
- l c. hot water
- 1 tsp. vanilla 1 lg. (13 oz.) can Milnot, cooled
- 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 1 c. sugar
- Graham cracker crumbs

Grease large round or rectangular regular size cake pan. Sprinkle lightly with graham cracker crumbs until bottom is covered. Mix Jell-O and hot water; set until thick soupy stage. Mix cream cheese, sugar and vanilla together and refrigerate. Add Jell-O when right consistency. Whip Milnot in large bowl, starting at low speed and increasing to a beat. Beat until very thick or until it stands in large firm peaks. Fold into other mixture and pour in pan. Top with graham cracker crumbs. Refrigerate several hours. Note: be sure not to underbeat Milnot.

Chocolate Chip Banana Bread

- 2-1/2 c. flour 1 tsp. baking soda
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1-1/4 c. sugar
- 1/2 c. vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1-1/2 c. mashed ripe bananas
- 1 c. mini chocolate chips

Stir flour, baking soda and salt together in one bowl. In another large mixing bowl, beat the sugar, oil, eggs and vanilla at medium speed. Add the bananas and beat until well blended. At low speed, beat in the flour mixture just until blended. Stir in chocolate chips. Divide into three small loaf pans. Bake for 45 to 50 minutes until done in a 350-degree oven. Cool 10 minutes and remove from pans. Note: you can also make into about 40 muffins. Bake until golden brown and toothpick comes out clean.

Mustard-Glazed Ham

- 1 fully cooked boneless ham (4 to lbs.)
- 3/4 to 1 c. water
- 14/ c. orange marmalade 1/4 c. prepared mustard
- 1/4 tsp. ground ginger

Place ham in a shallow roasting pan; add water to pan. Bake, uncovered, at 325 degrees for 1 hour. In a bowl, combine marmalade, mustard and ginger; mix well. Brush some over the ham. Bake 1 hour longer or until meat thermometer reads 140 degrees, brushing occasionally with glaze. Yield: 12 to 15 servings.

FISH FRY

Friday, March 23 Serving begins at 5 p.m.

1 Fillet - \$10, 2 Fillets - \$12



American Legion Post 22

121 Main Ave S. • Red Lake Falls **GAMBLING LICENSE #01101**

SPRING IS HERE. BETTER START THINKING BUY A NEW 2013 ARCTIC CAT® SNOWMOBILE AND GET: 3-Year \$500 Limited NO Money Down, NO Interest, NO Payments until March 1, 2013 Cat Cash™ PRE-SEASON SHOW Narctic Cat Monday, April 9th, 2012 • 4 - 9 p.m. FARGODOME, Fargo, ND www.rvsports.com Mon - Fri 9 am - 5:30 pm Saturday 412 3rd St. W. • Thief River Falls (218) 681-1007

*Offer valid 3/1/12 - 4/20/12 at participating U.S. dealers to U.S. residents on new and unused 2013 Arctic Cat snowmobiles, excluding youth, race, rental and special services models. Demo models are excluded from the 3-Year Limited Warranty, See dealer for details. 6.9% FINANCING FOR 60 MONTHS and NO MONEY DOLUN, NO INTEREST, NO PAYMENTS UNTIL MARCH I, 2013 are financed through Sheffield Financial and are subject to credit approval: not all applicants will

includes 12-month limited factory warranty and 24-month extended service contract through Cornerstone. Spring is Guaranteed to be the best time to place your order for the exciting lineup of 2013 Arctic Cat snowmobile. Customers that order any new qualifying 2013 Arctic Cat snowmobile, place a \$500 deposit, by April 20, 2012 and take delivery before October 1, 2012 or 20 days from shipment to the dealer, whichever is greater, will earn the best Consumer Program. PLUS \$500 CAT CASH. Offer subject to change without notice. Certain restrictions apply, Excludes lax, freight and dealer setup. Always wear a helmet and don't drink and ride. ** are trademarks or registered trademarks of Arctic Cat Inc. © 2012 Arctic Cat Sales Inc., Thief River Falls, MN 56701.

Chocolate Chocolate Chip Cake

- 1 c. shortening
- 2 c. sugar
- 4 squares (1 oz. each) unsweetened chocolate, melted and cooled
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 5 eggs 2-1/4 c. cake flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 c. buttermilk 2 c. (12 oz.) semisweet chocolate chips Frosting:
- 2/3 c. butter or margarine, softened
- 5-1/3 c. confectioners' sugar
- 1 c. baking cocoa
- 1 c. milk
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract

In a mixing bowl, cream shortening and sugar. Add chocolate and vanilla; mix well. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Combine flour, baking soda and salt; add to creamed mixture alternately with buttermilk. Fold in the chocolate chips. Pour into three greased and floured 9-inch round cake pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes; remove from pans to wire racks to cool completely. In a mixing bowl, cream butter. Combine sugar and cocoa; add to creamed mixture alternately with milk. Add vanilla; beat well. Frost betwen layers and top and sides of cake. Yield: 12 servings.

Top dairy herds for February DHIA

Randy Rasmussen, supervisor of the Red Lake-Pennington DHIA, put the following herds at top 10 in the association for February.

Name	% in	lbs.		lbs.		lbs.
Cows	milk	milk	test	fat	protein	protein
Northstar Dairy LLC 3X1131	92	77	3.7	2.8	3.2	2.5
Spring Prairie Colony	85	68	3.9	2.6	3.1	2.1
Beyer Brothers Farm63	100	68	3.6	2.4	3.2	2.2
Wayra Dairy288	92	66	3.7	2.4	3.1	2.0
Kara-Kesh Holsteins8	100	66	3.8	2.5	3.1	2.1
Walter Bros Farm	87	64	3.9	2.5	3.1	2.0
BLY Dairy Inc255	89	59	3.8	2.2	3.2	1.9
lone pine acres43	98	56	3.7	2.1	3.0	1.7
mark gladen	85	55	3.4	1.9	2.8	1.5
danny grunhovd	87	51	3.9	2.0	3.2	1.6

The herd averages are affected by the number of dry cows in the herd. The amount of milk or butterfat is averaged out over all the cows. This gives the farmer a record of the earning power of the herd for the month. If too many cows are included in the herd, then the average for the month may be low, even though the cow that is milking produces a lot of milk.







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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Electricity changed life for Red Lake Electric's longest-running member

Eleanor Qualley is currently the longestrunning member of the Red Lake Electric Cooperative. John, her husband, joined the cooperative in January 1947 when he lived with his family in Mentor. The couple was married that December and Eleanor moved to the farmstead. The couple raised cattle on the farm. John also worked several jobs outside the farm that included working for local grain elevators and various construction projects throughout the years.

Electric service was not installed until Nov. 18, 1949. This was common for the area as many of their neighbors attained service at the same time. The electrical contractor who installed the service was A.D. Dahl. Lighting was installed in the barn and the lower level of the home. All the lights in the home were operated with a single switch. Upstairs the family used an extension cord attached to a light to illuminate the second floor. It was plugged into one of 3 outlets featured in the home.

Eleanor laughed while telling the story of the first time they used the lights, "When we first got electricity and turned the light on, I could see how dirty the floor was! But that's what life was like on the farm. There was only one bulb, but I could still see the dirt!"

Ron, the couples' son, explained that his father made sure that lights were installed in the barn to avoid the risk of fire that the kerosene lanterns often caused. One outlet was installed in the barn to run a milker to milk the cows. Ron remembers that the outlet was used for a radio more often than the milker.

Eleanor agreed stating, "We had a milker, but it was hard to clean. Hands are easier to clean. They are quicker too."

Ron went on to explain that his father had quite the talent for milking cows, "He could milk two cows to every one cow my brother or I could. He was fast."

Electricity changed life for Eleanor. They purchased a Speed Queen electric wringer washing machine for laundry. "The washing clothes was the best thing about the electric," she exclaimed. With the help of the machine, she only had to wash clothes two days a week.

"We did have a washer with a motor, but it only worked when it wanted to," said Eleanor. Mostly she used a washboard and hand ringer as they were waiting for electricity to purchase an electric washer. "That electric machine lasted me 9 years," she explained. "I traded it in for a Maytag that still runs today!" Though Ron has had to do some repairs to the machine, it is still in working order.

They also soon replaced their gas refrigerator with an electric model according to Eleanor, "The gas fridge worked alright, but if it got dirty, it smoked." They also added running water to the home with an electric pump. "We just got the necessities," she explained.



Eleanor Qualley

"That first Christmas with electricity, I got a Dormeyer mixer," she said. That was a good thing as she had quite a lot of baking to do. "I don't know how many sour cream chocolate cakes I made then and I don't know how many strokes with a spoon that would've taken," she laughed.

Their first electric bill that December was \$4.49 and they had used 45 kilowatt hours. The Qualley's monthly electric bill did not exceed \$5 on a regular basis until November 1950.

In 1960, an electric water heater was purchased



from Red Lake Electric Cooperative for \$160 and the house was wired with a 60-amp, 240-volt service to allow for the heater. Red Lake Electric Cooperative's first capital credit check to the couple was issued in 1962 for \$6.30. The house was then wired for an electric clothes dryer in 1964.

Through the years, they had three children, Douglas, who lives in Crookston, Ron who lives in Mentor, and Judith, who lives in Red Lake Falls. John's health declined and in 1978 Eleanor began work as a nursing assistant in Fertile. She worked there until her retirement in 1989.

John passed away in 2007. Eleanor still lives in that home in rural Mentor with her son Ron. She is 86 years old. She has 11 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.



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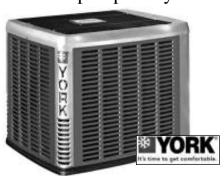


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Houses moved into Newfolden area

On March 8, two houses from Oslo moved east to the Newfolden area. The houses started moving through PKM Electric Cooperative's service territory early Thursday morning. They were scheduled to reach Red Lake Electric Cooperative's service area at about 2 p.m.

Due to the number of overhead power line crossings and the stormy winter weather, the houses did not get to Red Lake Electric's service area until 4:30 p.m. The move through Red Lake Electric's service area took seven hours when the larger house finally reached its destination at 11:30 p.m.

Due to the height of the larger lead house, nearly every overhead power line crossing had to be cut and then spliced after the house passed through. The final two crossings at the end of the route were three-phase crossings.

Shortly after 10 p.m., the north circuit of the Holt substation was opened up, interrupting electric service to 264 Cooperative members. The substation circuit was closed just before 11:30 p.m.

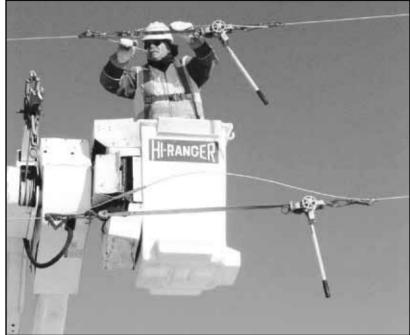
Travel through Red Lake Electric's service area was slowed due to having to do work in the dark and the fact the house mover had to cut several trees along one mile of road due to the width of the larger house.

Above right: Red Lake Electric lineman Steve Kruse uses web hoists to pull wires back into position so the wires could be spliced after the houses passed through. Several accounts had service interrupted between the cutting and splicing of wires.

Below right: The second or smaller house makes a turn to the north, just before dark, on the evening of March 8, headed for its destination half mile down the road. Red Lake Electric line personnel lift an overhead power line allowing the house to pass underneath.



When Red Lake Electric crews intercepted the two houses seven miles west of Newfolden, by Marsh Grove Town Hall, they were met by another house and garage being moved near Newfolden. These two structures came from Moorhead. What are the chances of two different house moves, meeting at the same intersection, allowing for four structures to parade down a county road?



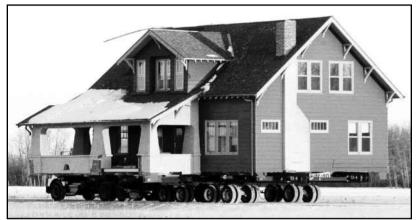


Red Lake Electric line personnel work to cut and drop an overhead power line crossing so the two houses could proceed down the road. There were two state troopers that led the houses and two that followed.



Pictured are the two houses that were moved into the Newfolden area from Oslo. The house movers prepare to cross Highway 59, three miles north of Newfolden.





After leaving the smaller house, the larger lead house continues down the road to its destination southeast of Newfolden. This house finally reached the farm yard for its new home at 11:30 p.m. on the evening of



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The year of living cooperatively

Electric co-ops join a global celebration of member-owned businesses during the International Year of Cooperatives 2012

By Megan McKoy-Noe, CCC

Is it possible to change the way people eat a fruit? Could cheese unite communities? Can electricity transform the future of a country? It's possible ... with a little cooperation.

The United Nations General Assembly designated 2012 as International Year of Cooperatives (IYC 2012), under the banner "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World." The resolution recognizes the vital role cooperatives—democratically governed businesses that operate on an at-cost, not-for-profit basis—play in the economic and social well-being of nations around the globe and encourages countries to foster cooperative development as a way to generate local wealth, employment, and marketplace competition.

"At a time when folks are losing faith in big corporations, International Year of Cooperatives 2012 offers us a great opportunity to showcase the many ways the local, consumer-owned and member-controlled cooperative form of business benefits communities all over the world," declares NRECA CEO Glenn English. "It gives cooperatives a perfect venue to contrast how we differ from profit-driven companies."

Co-ops are everywhere

If variety is the spice of life, coops are a zesty bunch. Every day, more than 29,200 cooperatives supply essential products and services to American consumers, touching our lives in almost every

Tomorrow at breakfast, check your morning paper. Many of the articles may be labeled "Associated Press" or "AP." Those stories were written by individual reporters but distributed by a cooperative news organization.

If your breakfast includes freshly squeezed orange juice, it may be from a Sunkist product. Sunkist is a coopera-

tive formed by California and Arizona citrus growers.

And the list goes on: Land O' Lakes butter, Ocean Spray cranberry juice, Sun-Maid raisins, Welch's grape jelly, Nationwide Insurance, Blue Diamond almonds, Ace Hardware, REI outdoor gear—they are all cooperatives. In fact, one out of every four Americans claims membership in some type of cooperative, including 91 million served by credit unions and 42 million connected to more than 900 electric cooperatives in 47 states.

Although many in number, cooperatives differ from "typical" businesses in one big way: they are organized for the benefit of their members, not single owners or

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stockholders.

"Co-ops are established when the for-profit, investor-owned commercial sector fails to meet a need, either due to price or availability of goods and services," explains Martin Lowery, NRECA executive vice president, external affairs and chairman of the Washington, D.C.-based National Cooperative Business Association Board of Directors. "The co-op business model works in housing, utilities, and in both rural and urban settings. Co-ops empower people to take control over their own economic destinies."

He continues: "When you're a member of a co-op, you have a real say in the direction of that business. That's critical—it helps the co-op rapidly respond to changing condi-

tions. As an example, a number of electric co-ops have branched out into other pursuits beyond electricity to meet pressing consumer and community requirements."

Dallas Tonsager, under secretary for rural development with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, points out that co-ops "are only as good as the people running them and only succeed when members support them. But wellmanaged, democratically run co-ops have

proven time and time again that when people unite to achieve a common goal, they can accomplish anything."

On the cutting edge

Odds are you have orange juice in your refrigerator. But before a 1916 advertising campaign by Sunkist, oranges were only eaten by the slice. By the end of World War I, however, Sunkist's "Drink an Orange" push had increased the average per capita serving size from one-half an orange to almost three.

This pioneering co-op tradition continues in many ways today:

Credit unions fought off the destructive cycle of payday loans by creating salary advance loans with low rates that placed part of the borrowing into a savings account—helping members escape a cycle of debt

Marketing cooperatives added food nutrition labels to products long before it was required by fed-

Electric cooperatives lead the way in smart grid implementation—close to half have installed advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), with 30 percent integrating AMI or automated meter reading devices with various software applications, such as outage management and geographic information systems

"Co-ops have made these investments because it makes sense for them and their members," stresses English. "It's an outgrowth of the co-op commitment to innovation—the same spirit that allowed co-ops to overcome seemingly insurmountable technical, engineering, legal, political, and financial hurdles in the late 1930s to bring central station electricity to all corners of America. Thanks to our consumer orientation, co-ops work to ensure that all decisions—technology-based or otherwise—focus on their core mission: providing members with a safe, reliable, and affordable supply of power."

It is hard to conceive of America without cooperatives, Tonsager reflects. "Agricultural co-ops have made our nation the breadbasket of the world. This occurred, in part, through lending from the farmerowned, cooperative Farm Credit System and power supplied by electric co-ops. Today, electric and telephone co-ops are playing a vital role in deploying the advanced distribution, transmission, and telecommunications infrastructure that rural America needs to prosper and stay competitive."

Building a better world
The IYC 2012 theme, "Coopera-

The IYC 2012 theme, "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World," embodies NRECA International Programs, a division of NRECA that celebrates its golden anniversary this year. Since its creation in November 1962, NRECA International Programs has assisted with electrification endeavors that have resulted in increased agricultural output, millions of new jobs, as well as an enhanced quality of life for more than 100 million people in 40-plus nations.

NRECA International Programs projects are currently under way in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Despite progress, much work remains.

"More than 2 billion people worldwide still lack electricity and millions more must depend on unreliable and unsafe power," emphasizes Ingrid Hunsicker, manager of international program development for the NRECA International Foundation, a charitable organization that has partnered with more than 300 electric cooperatives in the United States to bring power

and economic development to rural villages overseas. "In many countries, traditions of self-help, self-government, and joining together to achieve a common goal don't exist. A dismaying array of financial problems, such as a lack of investment capital and little understanding of even the most basic accounting procedures, throw up even more barriers."

Because circumstances vary so widely, NRECA International Programs has adopted the slogan, "Electrifying the world, one village at a time." Outreach relies on the time-tested electric cooperative approach—giving individuals, many for the first time, practical experience in democratic decisionmaking and entrepreneurship so they can launch locally driven services. "By aggregating small stakeholders into large-enough units to compete, cooperatives expand the critical people-to-people relationships required to break down mistrust," Hunsicker asserts.

In many cases, volunteer electric co-op lineworkers from the United States head to distant lands for a few weeks to teach their peers safe construction practices. Then NRECA staff instructs local residents on how to maintain simple power grids and run their own utilities.

"We're sharing knowledge about best techniques on a person-to-person basis," says Chris Stephens, vice president of engineering at Palmetto, Ga.-based Coweta-Fayette Electric Membership Corporation, who assisted with an electrification undertaking in Ixcan, Guatemala. "Even though we may speak a different language, we all speak the same work."

"One of the challenges we face in many countries is building a rural business culture," indicates Hunsicker. "When electric cooperative employees and volunteers arrive, they outline how to create a business plan, how to conduct meetings, how to collect the full amount due from consumers, what type of electric generation system to invest in, and everything in between. It's all about discovering and building on what works. Best of all, we show the best face of not only who we are as co-ops but who we are as Americans."

While NRECA International Programs does not limit help to coops—municipal electric systems benefit, too—many foreign communities embrace the cooperative way. Argentina boasts the largest number of electric co-ops—nearly 800—outside of the United States, while Cooperativa Rural de Electrificacion in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, serves more than 400,000 members, ranking it as the largest electric cooperative anywhere. The Philippines has 119 electric co-ops, Bangladesh 72, and the imprint of cooperation can also be seen in Costa Rica, South Sudan, Uganda, and other countries.

Spreading the cheese

"Cooperation Among Cooperatives," one of the seven cooperative principles (see sidebar), delivers great results. "Twenty years ago, as a new brand, we had absolutely nothing—we relied on electric cooperatives and credit unions to let us piggyback on their annual meetings for advertising purposes," attests Roberta MacDonald, senior vice president of marketing with Montpelier, Vt.-based Cabot Creamery Cooperative.

Flash forward to today and the farmer-owned dairy co-op sold 8 million lb. of cheddar in addition to a host of other merchandise in 2011—enough cheese, butter, whipped cream, and other items to crisscross the nation more than three times.

"By working with electric coops and others we were able to remind co-op members that when they bought Cabot products, they were supporting another co-op,' MacDonald comments, recounting trips made in the late 1980s and early 1990s to electric co-op annual meetings in southeastern states. "Spreading the word among different co-ops helped us flourish. Electric cooperatives in Tennessee even invited me back repeatedly because our message also underscored the importance of co-ops working together."

Unlike electric cooperatives, which are owned by members—consumers—who receive electricity, dairy producers own Cabot Creamery. Through the co-op, more than 1,200 farm operations across New England and upstate New York are guaranteed a market and

America's 29,200 Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World

- Provide 2 million jobs with annual sales of \$652 billion
 More than 900 electric coops deliver electricity to 42
- million consumers in 47 states
 Electric co-ops own and maintain 42 percent of the nation's electric distribution lines that cover 75 percent of
- America's landmass

 Two million farmers are members of nearly 3,000 farmer-owned cooperatives

 More than 7,500 credit
- More than 7,500 credit unions offer financial services to 91 million consumers
- Approximately 233 million people are served by insurance companies organized as or closely affiliated with co-ops
 Around 50,000 families use
- cooperative day-care centers
 Roughly 1.2 million Americans in 31 states are served by 260 telephone cooperatives
- More than 1.2 million families live in housing owned and operated through cooperative associations

Source: International Cooperative Alliance

air prices.

"Our farmers are so proud to own the brand," MacDonald smiles. "They wear T-shirts with the slogan, 'I'm a farmer, I'm an owner."

For IYC 2012, Cabot Creamery will orchestrate a 2,300-mile cooperative ride, walk, and bike tour across 15 eastern states. Eight major community events held between May 12 and July 7 will bring electric cooperatives, agricultural co-ops, credit unions, and others together to help connect the public with local cooperatives.

Group studies

Some electric co-ops are already sponsoring joint cooperative initiatives. For nearly three decades electric cooperatives in the Yellowhammer State have linked arms with the Alabama Council of Cooperatives to hold a three-day statewide youth leadership conference, called Co-op Boot Camp, for more than 50 high school students.

Last July the event was chaired by Chellie Phillips, communications & marketing coordinator for Troy-headquartered South Alabama Electric Cooperative, and Laura Thornton, community relations specialist at Ozark-based Pea River Electric Cooperative.

"We highlight all of the different kinds of cooperatives found in our state: banking, farming, dairy, and electric," remarks Phillips. "Our biggest challenge is incorporating the co-op message while keeping students engaged and active. We strive to balance educational aspects with recreation and fun times."

Those in attendance learn cooperative basics from university professors. Speakers from the Alabama Farmers Cooperative—which sells feed, fertilizer, seed, and various agricultural-related hardware supplies—lead activities demonstrating how all co-ops are alike, despite outward appearances. Credit union representatives review banking cooperatives and capital credits. Students later practice what they've learned by creating their own coops.

Since 2007, two neighboring cooperatives in western Oklahoma—Tri-County Electric Cooperative in Hooker and Panhandle Telephone Cooperative in Guymon, located just 20 miles apart, have teamed up for several efforts.

"One donation we make jointly is to the Texas County YMCA," reports Juliann Graham, Tri-County Electric communications specialist. "We contribute equal amounts of money and advertise it with local media as cooperatives coming together to help our community. In addition, we've also hosted joint tailgate parties and events that benefit worthy causes. Needless to say, we're really excited about IYC 2012—it's one more reason to work cooperatively!"

Connect to co-ops "It's in every co-op's DNA to

serve members in the best way possible," concludes Lowery. "That's why co-ops remain the best type of business around."

To find a cooperative near you, visit www.go.coop.



Family values important to cooperatives

The first known cooperative in the United States was formed by Benjamin Franklin in 1752. That organization, the Philadelphia Contributionship for the Insurance of Houses from Loss by Fire, still operates today.

Most early cooperative development efforts in the United States involved farmers trying to boost their buying and selling power. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the first official farm organization — the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture — sprang up in 1785. In 1804, the initial farm marketing cooperative was established by dairymen in the Connecticut River Valley.

Of course, not all cooperatives engaged in agricultural marketing. The first irrigation cooperative was organized in California in 1853. By 1857, Ohio and New York had adopted laws enabling the operation of cooperative (mutual) insurance companies. In 1865, Michigan passed what is believed to be the first law recognizing the cooperative business model.

The cooperative movement we know today traces its roots to a set of business guidelines drawn up by Charles Howarth, one of 28 weavers and other artisans who founded the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers in Rochdale, England, on December 21, 1844. The tradesmen had banded together to open a store selling food items they could not otherwise afford, starting out with a meager selection of butter, sugar, flour, oatmeal, and a few candles but soon expanding to include tea and tobacco. Eventually, the enterprise was so successful that the group was able to open a cooperative factory and textile

When introduced into the United States by the National Grange in 1874, these "Rochdale Principles" fueled a cooperative explosion. After being formally written down by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) in 1937 (and last updated in 1995), they evolved into the seven cooperative principles used today. Although stated in many ways, the seven cooperative principles hold that a cooperative must provide:

• Open and Voluntary Membership — Membership in a cooperative is open to all persons who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsi-

bilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender, or economic circumstances.

• Democratic Member Control — Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Elected representatives (directors/trustees) are elected from among the membership and are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote); cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

• Members' Economic Participation — Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

• Autonomy and Independence — Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.

• Education, Training, and Information — Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors/trustees), CEOs, and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives. Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, helps boost cooperative understanding.

• Cooperation Among Cooperatives —By working together through local, national, regional, and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.

• Concern for Community — Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.

These principles are underpinned by six ideals—the so-called cooperative values of Self-Help, Self-Responsibility, Democracy, Equality, Equity, and Solidarity. In addition, ICA lists cooperative "ethical values" of Honesty, Openness, Social Responsibility, and Caring for Others.

Cooperatives around the world

• The cooperative sector boasts nearly 1 billion members in more than 90 countries.

• The proportion of cooperative membership to population varies, but can be as high as 50 percent in Finland and Singapore, 33 percent in Canada, New Zealand, Honduras, and Norway, and one in four in America, Malaysia, and Germany

• Forty-five percent of Kenya's Gross Domestic Product can be attributed to cooperatives

• Cooperatives account for 80 percent to 99 percent of milk production in Norway, New Zealand, and the United States

• Co-ops account for 71 percent of fishery production in Korea, 40 percent of agriculture in Brazil; 25 percent of savings in Bolivia; 24 percent of the health sector in Colombia; and 55 percent of the retail market in Singapore.

• Financial cooperatives serve an estimated 857 million people—13 percent of the world's population

• Approximately 49,000 credit unions serve 177 million members in 96 countries, under the umbrella of the World Council of Credit Unions

• Financial cooperatives are the largest providers of microfinance services to the poor, reaching 78 million clients living below the poverty line of \$2 per day

• Cooperatives generate 100 million jobs globally

Source: International Cooperative Alliance

Be prepared for spring storms

Lightning from thunderstorms kills more people each year than tornadoes or hurricanes, according to the American Red Cross. As spring arrives, make sure you're prepared to handle storms that come with the changing season. Follow these tips from the Red Cross to stay safe.

Stay away from down power lines. Electricity could still be flowing through them. Report them to Red Lake Electric Cooperative at 218-253-2168 immediately.

Hear thunder? Head inside. If you can hear it, you could be in danger from lightning. Stay indoors at least 30 minutes after the last

clap of thunder—a recommendation from the National Weather Service. If you're outside and can't seek shelter indoors, avoid high ground, water, tall isolated trees, and metal objects like bleachers or fences.

Unplug your electronics. Avoid using electrical items and telephones, which can carry power surges. Keep a battery-powered TV or radio on hand for weather updates.

Delay outdoor activities. If conditions are right for a thunderstorm, postpone the baseball game and stay inside—it doesn't have to be raining for lightning to strike.

Assemble an emergency preparedness kit with:

• Water—one gallon per person,

- per day;Non-perishable food;
 - Flashlight;

• First-aid kit;

- Battery-powered or handcrank radio (preferably NOAA weather radio) and extra batteries;
 - Seven-day medicine supply;Copies of personal docu-
- Cell phone with chargers;Emergency contact informa-
- tion; and
 Cash.

Source: American Red Cross



Beware of salespeople pitching energy savings from radiant barriers

The Minnesota Department of Commerce has issued a consumer alert, encouraging Minnesota homeowners to think twice before installing radiant barriers in their attics. The Department's Division of Energy Resources (DER) has received reports of salespeople pitching radiant barrier products in flyers and at free dinners throughout Minnesota. The Commerce Department wants all local consumers to know that radiant barriers are not an effective means to reduce heating or cooling loads in Minnesota homes.

"Many Minnesota consumers have been duped into installing radiant barriers based on false promises of substantial energy savings," said Commerce Commissioner Mike Rothman. "We strongly urge all consumers to be cautious, ask questions, and explore other reputable means to make their homes and businesses more energy efficient."

Radiant barriers consist of a reflective film, usually aluminum, installed over the top of attic insulation in existing homes. They are sold as an energy-saving product, with claims of significant reductions in both heating and cooling costs. However, their potential benefit is primarily in reducing air-conditioning cooling loads in warm or hot climates – particularly in southern states

A report compiled by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy, shows that the benefits of radiant barriers decrease significantly in northern climates. In southern cities like Miami, Florida or Austin, Texas, radiant barriers could reduce a household's utility bill by as much as \$150 per year using average residential electricity prices. But in colder climate states such as Minnesota, where annual air-conditioning loads are considerably less, savings drop to only \$10 to \$40 a year.

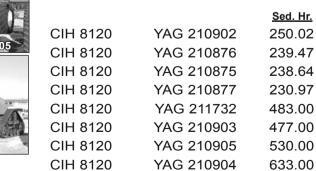
"The price to install a radiant barrier can be as much as \$2,000 or more," Commissioner Rothman said. "But if the average household saves only \$20 per year, it would take 100 years to pay back your investment."

It's also important to note that radiant barrier products have negligible benefit in reducing heating costs. It is unlikely that most Minnesota consumers would realize any measurable energy savings from radiant barriers in attics.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Minnesota Department of Commerce agree that, in Minnesota, implementing air sealing and adding conventional attic insulation is a cheaper and more effective means for saving energy than installing a radiant barrier. In fact, as attic insulation levels increase, the potential benefits from a radiant barrier decrease.

For more information on insulation and other energy-efficient measures to improve your home, contact the Minnesota Department of Commerce at 800-657-3710 or 651-296-5175 or visit www.energy.mn.gov. The website offers free downloadable home energy guides.





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VOLTS & JOLTS March 2012

Minutes of the annual meeting of the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative

The 73rd annual meeting of the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Wednesday, March 30, 2011 in the Imperial Room of the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls. President Kelly Lundeen called the meeting to order at 10:30 am. Approximately 250 members and guests were in attendance.

Lundeen thanked Vern Rogalla for the pre-meeting musical entertainment he provided. Kailee Vigen, a 10 year old fourth grader at Challenger Elementary School in Thief River Falls sang the national anthem. Pastor Oliver Urdahl of Viking gave an invocation and current board members were introduced.

President Lundeen then called the business meeting to order. Secretary Mark Hanson read the affidavit of mailing and quorum declaration.

Lundeen entertained a motion that the 2010 annual meeting minutes be approved as they were printed in the March "Volts and Jolts." It was duly moved, seconded and carried to do so.

In his president's report, Kelly Lundeen said the past year of 2010, RLEC faced the challenge and cost of stricter environmental regulations. On the distribution side of our business, 2010 was very good in many respects. RLEC was spared any major storm related outages and that the main cause for service interruptions was due to underground cable failure and a tornado that hit the SW part of RLEC's service area. Lundeen stated that outage time per customer averaged just over two hours in 2010. Lundeen reported \$500,000 was paid out in capital credit retirements, and member equity was 50 percent of assets. He also thanked the Cooperative's members who participated in the Operation Round Up program.

Roger Johanneck, general manager, gave his report and discussed two different topics: Electric Rates and Future Challenges. Johanneck discussed the impact legislation is having on the way that Coopera-

tives/Electric Utilities operate today. Massive environmental plant upgrades, Renewable Energy, and Conservation Improvement Program mandates are impacting not only the way Cooperatives do business but in the rates members are paying for their energy.

Johanneck also touched on the Cooperative's concern for future legislation as proposed by President Obama (having more energy generated by renewables) in his State of the Union address earlier this year. Johanneck also noted the aging workforce at the Cooperative and the challenge to replace those retiring, while maintaining a balance between safety, reliability and economics.

Johanneck also reviewed the impact to members of the recent rate increase that members will see on their April billing, as well as the need to increase rates later in 2011 because of Minnkota's larger than expected wholesale power rate increase. Red Lake's bylaw provision of giving members a 90 day notice of a rate increase made setting the new rate necessary and prior to Minnkota's 29.8 percent rate increase instead of the 16.9 percent Red Lake had planned for.

Bregier next gave the 2010 Financial Report and said energy sales were down from the previous two years largely as a result of a dry fall and the need for less grain drying; a warmer heating season which reduced heating sales and conservation improvements made by members. The Cooperative sold 130 million kWh's in 2010. Revenues were \$11.1 million and the cost of wholesale power was \$7.6 million. Bregier said the Cooperatives margin was \$631 thousand; this is the amount that is allocated back to the members as Capital Credits. Bregier reviewed various operating expenses, fixed expenses and items on the balance sheet. She said RLEC fared very well financially in 2010 and was on firm financial

Lundeen next introduced new General Manager, Robert "Mac"

Happy Easter

May you and your loved ones

experience the joy and

blessing of Easter.

From your friends at Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

McLennan, President and CEO of Minnkota Power Cooperative. McLennan updated members on power supply issues, wind generation, upgrades at the Young generating unit that have been required by the EPA and the \$425 million that has been invested in the power plant to meet these environmental mandates.

McLennan also spoke about the impact the nation's economy has had on the demand for energy and the cause and effect that low market prices have had on Minnkota Power's surplus energy sales and the revenue Minnkota Power received for these sales. McLennan said that there is "a light at the end of the tunnel"; if there are no more new regulations placed on Minnkota, rates should level off much like they did after Minnkota added base load generation in the early 80's. McLennan stated that the investments made will carry Minnkota and its member systems through the next two decades with power.

President Lundeen asked for a motion to accept the preceding reports and it was duly moved, seconded and carried to do so.

Election of directors then took place. Secretary Hanson verified the nominees elected at the district meetings and said there had been no nominations by petition. Lundeen then declared the following people duly elected as directors for three-year terms: District 1, Bonnie Christians; District 4, Steve Linder; and District 5, Mark Hanson and elected to a one year term to complete in District 2, Stacy Blawat.

Lundeen asked for any new business or questions from the audience and there was none. It was duly moved, seconded and carried to adjourn the business session of the annual meeting.

Safety awards were presented to three RLEC employees in recognition for their safe work records. Employees recognized for surpassing five-year increments of accident free work were: Steve Barbot, 10 years; Alan Cota and Kathy LaPlante each 35 years.

An appreciation plaque was presented to outgoing director Robert Olson who served as director from the Middle River area (district 2) for 33 years. Olson stepped down after serving two of the three year term he was elected to in 2009.

Bonnie Cote, Secretary of the Red Lake Electric Trust board, presented a \$500 grant check to Ruth Schultz of the American Cancer Society – Red Lake County Chapter. Schultz thanked the members for their participation in the Operation Round Up program and said the grant would be used to help/support individuals and families who are faced with fighting cancer.

Johanneck then presented a plaque to outgoing RLE Trust director Bonnie Cote and thanked her for her six years of serving as a director on the board.

Kevin Reich awarded door prizes and a special attendance prize to long-term member and frequent meeting attendee Lee Nielson of Erskine. Lunch was served by Bethany Lutheran Church of Red

Lake Falls.

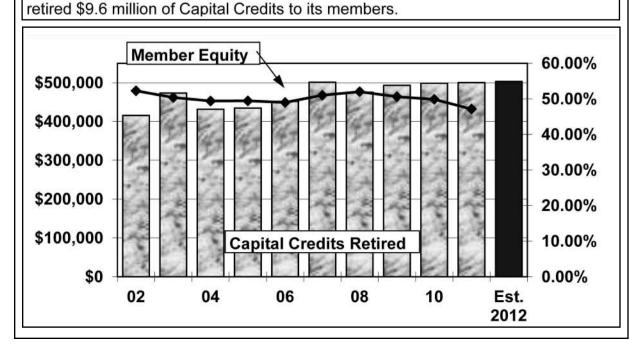
Kelly Lundeen, President

Mark Hanson, Secretary-treasur-

QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

This month, customers will experience one of the benefits of membership or ownership in their Red Lake Electric Cooperative business. Included on your March billing statement, is the General Capital Credit allocation for 2011 and retirement of member equity (Capital Credits) information for 2012. This graph shows the level of member equity or ownership in the Cooperative over the past 10 years and the amount of Capital Credits returned to members annually over the same period. Since the Cooperative began business in 1938, the Cooperative has



\$413,000 capital credit payment to be given in March

The Red Lake Electric Cooperative Board of Directors has approved the payment of capital credits totaling about \$413,000. This payment continues a strong tradition of equity revolvement at Red Lake Electric.

The balance of capital credits assigned to members in 1994 will be paid out, as well as 45.8 percent of the capital credits assigned in 1995. Active members, if they received service in

those years, will see a credit adjustment on their March billing statement. Inactive members (those no longer receiving service from RLEC) will be mailed a check.

The difference between annual revenues and annual expenses (termed a margin) is assigned to members' capital credit accounts each year based on their annual billings for electric service. The Cooperative retains those capi-

tal credits for a number of years for financial security and to reduce debt. If the Cooperative's financial health is good, as it is today, some of those capital credits assigned are paid out to members. At RLEC, capital credits are paid out on a "first in, first out" basis. Capital credits are also paid out in the event of the death of a member or their spouse.

Summer seminar offers educators a first-hand look at mines and power plants

The Lignite Energy Council, based in Bismarck, N.D., is sponsoring a teacher seminar titled "2012 Lignite Teacher Education Seminar: Energy, Economics and Environment" at Bismarck State College, Bismarck, N.D., June 18 through 21.

This seminar is designed to provide teachers with a broader understanding of the lignite coal industry and the important role it plays in providing electricity to consumers, farmers and businesses in North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota and Montana. The seminar includes discussions on how lignite coal is mined and converted into energy, and the economic impact of the industry on the region. It also includes a tour of a lignite mine, a lignite-based power

plant and the Great Plains Synfuels Plant (which converts coal into synthetic natural gas and other valuable byproducts).

Minnkota Power Cooperative is sponsoring 10 teachers from its Minnesota service area by paying the \$60 registration fee, plus round-trip mileage to the seminar in Bismarck. Rooms are provided at Bismarck State College at no charge. Meals are also included.

Teachers who attend the fourday seminar and complete a lesson plan are eligible to receive two graduate credits in education, economics or science from one of three North Dakota universities: University of North Dakota, North Dakota State University and Minot State Uni-

Application materials are

available at www.minnkota.com. All applications need to be submitted to Sue Black, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 13200, Grand Forks, ND 58208-3200 by April 13, 2012.

The Lignite Energy Council is a trade association that represents more than 300 companies that are involved in the region's energy industry. Each year, nearly 30 million tons of lignite are produced in North Dakota and converted to electricity, synthetic natural gas, fertilizer and other products. The lignite industry employs more than 27,000 people, has an economic impact of \$3 billion in North Dakota and generates more than \$90 million in states taxes each year

AUTO PAY OFFERED BY RLEC

Red Lake Electric Cooperative is pleased to offer you Auto Pay. Now you can have your monthly energy bill paid automatically from your checking or savings account. You can receive the Auto Pay service by completing the Auto Pay sign-up sheet and returning it to Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

The Auto Pay service is free of charge. Not only is this service free, you will eliminate the expense of writing a check, postage to mail your payment and no more late payment penalties because your bill will be paid on time, every month, for you.

Your payment will be automatically made for you on the 5th of each month. If the 5th falls on a week-

end or holiday, the payment will be made on the next business day. You will continue to receive your monthly energy bill as you have in the past, indicating the amount that will be withdrawn from your bank account. The proof of your payment will appear on your bank statement and your next month's energy bill statement.

Continue to pay your monthly bill until you are notified on your bill that the Auto Pay has been set up for you.

If you have any questions about the Auto Pay please call RLEC at 800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.

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I authorize Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) and the bank listed below to initiate variable entries to my checking or savings account. This authorization remains in effect until I notify RLEC in writing to cancel it in such time as to allow RLEC to act on it.

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For Sale

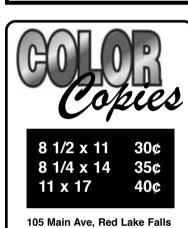
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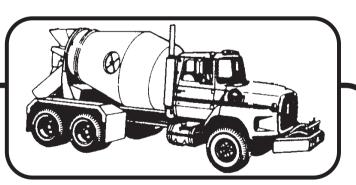


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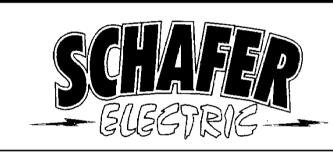
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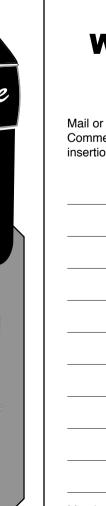
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1991 Olds 88 Royale 3.8 v-6, 118k	
1998 Pontiac Firebird, V-6, T-Tops, 102k, Red	\$6,900
2002 Ford Taurus SES, 187k Silver	
2002 Buick LeSabre Custom, Leather, 147k White	\$4,800
2004 Buick LeSabre Custom, 85k, White	
2005 Chevy Malibu Classic, 112k White	\$5,500
2005 Buick LeSabre Custom, 117k Blue	\$7,900
2006 Cadillac STS AWO, 47k Maroon	\$19,800
2006 Pontiac G6 GTP, Leather, Sunroof, 97k	\$10,900
2007 Chevy Monte Carlo LT, Heated leather, Sunroof, 75k Gray	\$12,200
2007 Buick LuCerne CXL, Heated Leather, 49k Bronze	\$16,900
2008 Chevy Impala LT, 99k, Charcoal	\$9900
2008 Pontiac G6, V-6, 39.5k Gray	\$13,900
2009 Chevy Impala, Heated Leather, Sunroof, 37k, Charcoal	\$15,500
2010 Toyota Prius Hybrid, 13k White Diamond	
2010 Buick LaCrosse CXL, Heated and Cooled Leather 48k Silver	\$20,900
2010 Chevy Impala LT, 28k Charcoal	\$15,900
2011 chevy Impala LT, 13.5k White	\$17,900
2011 Chevy Impala LS, 13k White	\$15,900
2011 Chevy Malibu LT, 12k White	\$16,800
2011 Chevy Impala LT, Heated Leather, 17k, Black	\$18,900
2011 Chevy Impala Lt, Bench Seat, 19k Blue	\$17,700
2011 Chevy Impala LT, 10k Silver	
2011 Chevy Impala LT, 15.5k Silver	\$16,000
2011 Chevy Malibu LS, 2500 Miles, Gold	\$17,500
2011 Chevy Malibu LT, 12k Sunroof, Gold	\$17,900
2011 Buick LuCerne CXL, Heated Leather, 18.5k Black	\$23,900
2011 Buick LuCerne CXL, Heated Leather, 29k Silver	\$23,900
2011 Chevy Malibu LTZ, V-6, Heatedd Leather, Sunroof, 10k, Blad	
2011 Chevy Malibu LT, 10k Silver	\$16,900
2011 Chevy Impala LS, 14k, Silver	•
2011 Chevy Impala LS 10.5k Silver	
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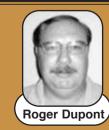
Used SUVs

ı	2002 Gmc Yukon Denali Leather 4x4 90k Pewter\$13,500
ı	2004 Chevy Tahoe 4x4 Leather 3rd Seat 114k\$12,900
ı	2005 Chevy Sububan 4x4 Leather, Navagation,
ı	DVD, Sunroof, 125k Maroon\$14,900
ı	2005 Chevy Trailblazer Ext 4x4 LS, 3rd Seat, 125k, Silver\$7,900
ı	2007 Chevy Tahoe LTZ 4x4, Leather Sunroof,
ı	DVD, 79k Goldmist\$23,900
ı	2008 Chevy Tahoe LTZ 4x4, Leather, Navagation, Sunroof,
ı	DVD, Loaded 45k, Goldmist\$32,900
ı	2010 Chevy Equinox LTZ AWD, Sunroof, Leather,
ı	Backup Camera, 32k Cardinal Red\$25,900
ı	2010 Buick Enclave FWD, Leather Loaded 35k Silver\$29,800
ı	2010 Chevy Equinox 2LT, FWD, Heated Leather, 27k Mocha\$23,900
ı	2011 Chevy Equinox ILT FWD, Backup Camera,
ı	17400k Black\$23,900
ı	2011 Buick Enclave CXL AWD, Heated Leather, 16k
ı	White Diamond\$36,900
ı	2011 Jeep Wrangler 4dr 4x4, 18.5k, Green\$25,900
	Used Vans
	2002 Dodge Caravan 165k Gray\$4,500
	2006 Buick Terraza CXL Heated Leather,
	DVD, 110k Light Blue\$9,995

2002 Douge Caravan 103k Gray	
2006 Buick Terraza CXL Heated Leather,	
DVD, 110k Light Blue	\$9,995
2006 Pontiac Montana SV6, Leather, DVD, 87k Mocha	\$10,90
2005 Chevy Uplander LT DVD, 91k, Maroon	\$9,500
2007 Buick Terraza CXL, DVD, 110k Silver	\$9,900
2007 Buick Terraza CXL, DVD, Heated Leather 58k	\$16,500
2008 Chrysler Town & Country Touring, 59k, Black	\$14,90
2010 Chrysler Town & Country Touring, 32k, Silver	\$18,90
2010 Chrysler Town & Country Touring, 35k, White	\$18,70







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2002 Chevy Silverado Reg Cab 4x4, 166k Red\$6,900
2002 GMC Sierra Ext Cab 4x4, Leather 148k Red\$9,900
2003 Chevy Silverado Ext Cab 4x4, 116k Charcoal\$12,800
2003 Chevy Silverado Ext Cab 4x4, 110k Maroon\$12,000
2004 Chevy Silverado Ext Cab 4x4, 85k Maroon\$14,900
2004 Chevy Silverado Ext Cab Long Box 4x4, 135k, Maroon\$10,900
2005 Chevy Silverado Ext Cab 4x4 115k Red\$10,995
2006 Ford F150 Ext Cab 4x4, 89k Blue\$14,900
2007 Chevy Silverado Ext Cab 4x4, 29k White\$22,900
2007 Chevy Silverado Ext Cab Classic 4x4, 68k Blue\$18,900
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2004 Chevy Avalanche 4x4, LS 127k Pewter\$11,900
2004 Chevy Silverado Crew 4x4 LS, 133k Silver\$13,500
2008 Chevy Silverado Crew 4x4, 53k Silver\$24,500
2008 Chevy Avalanche 4x4, LT 54k Red\$24,900
2008 Chevy Avalanche 4x4, LT 34k Silver\$28,900
2008 Chevy Silverado Crew 4x4, 58k White\$24,500
2008 Chevy Silverado Crew 4x4, 68k Silver\$22,900
2009 Chevy Silverado Crew 4x4, 78k Blue\$22,900
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2010 Chevy Silverado Crew 4x4 28k Laser Blue\$28,900
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2011 Chevy Silverado Crew 4x4, 17k Gray\$29,900
2007 Ford F150 Crew King Ranch 4x4, DVD, 147k Black\$16,900
2005 Ford F450 Reg Cab 4x2 Flatbed 206k White\$8,995
2006 Ford F250 Crew Cab 6.0 Diesel Lariet 144k Black\$20,900
2007 Chevy Silverdao Crew 2500HD Duramax 69k Red\$30,900
2007 Chevyrolet Silverado Crew 2500 4x4 95k Black\$22,900
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