



# 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**  
*and a portion of the lands of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa*

VOL. 49 – NO. 6

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

MARCH 2014

## Cooperative Members You're Invited

to the **76th Annual Meeting of the Membership of**



## Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

**Wednesday, March 26, 2014**

**Imperial Room, Ralph Engelstad Arena**

**Thief River Falls, Minnesota**

9:00 a.m.	Registration begins Free coffee and doughnuts	
10:00 a.m.	Entertainment	Vernon Rogalla
10:30 a.m.	Call to order	Bonnie Christians, President
	Pledge of Allegiance	Bonnie Christians
	Invocation	Kevin Reich
	Introductions	Bonnie Christians

## BUSINESS SESSION

Notice of meeting and affidavit of mailing	Mark Hanson
Establishment of quorum	Mark Hanson
Minutes of 2013 meeting	Mark Hanson
President's report	Bonnie Christians
General manager's report	Roger Johanneck
Financial report	Shirley Bregier
Minnkota report	Luther Kvernen
Election of directors	Bonnie Christians
Question and answer session	
Adjournment of business session	
Award presentations	
Awarding of prizes	
Lunch and entertainment	

**Your Reliable Energy Partner**

## Spring into Electrical Safety with Your Children

"Children often do not understand the danger of electricity and electrical equipment. In their innocent and imaginative minds, what can be potentially dangerous may go unnoticed, or even appear enticing and fun," Safe Electricity Director Molly Hall said. "Take an opportunity to point out overhead power lines and any other electrical equipment to children and explain what they are."

Safe Electricity recommends teaching children to follow these rules:

Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines aren't touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.

Kites and model airplanes should only be flown during good weather conditions in large open areas like an open park or a wide field. They should stay away from overhead power lines or other electrical equipment such as substations. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that's near power lines, don't climb up (713005.01 Alan R. Brule) to get it. Electricity can travel down kite strings or wires. Contact your electric utility for assistance.

Never climb a utility pole or tower. The electricity carried through this equipment is extremely high voltage and could kill you.

Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment. These are often green metal "box" transformers on cement pads.

Never go into an electric substation for any reason - even on a dare. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment; even raising your hand inside one can cause an arc that may result in an electric shock. Never attempt to retrieve a pet, ball or any toy from these areas. Call your electric utility instead.

Immediately seek shelter if lightning or thunder is present while playing outdoors.

When designing a tree house or outdoor play area for chil-



dren, take preventive precautions before starting your project. Do not install playground equipment or swimming pools underneath or near power lines. Installation of either will require some digging; be sure to call your local underground utility locating service to have buried lines marked so you can avoid serious injury and damage.

Protect all family members from serious shock and injuries by installing Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) on outdoor outlets and in interior room where water is present. GFCIs shut off power instantly if they detect a problem. Use portable GFCIs for outdoor outlets that don't have them. GFCIs are affordably priced and found at hardware stores.

Be careful using electrical appliances outdoors, even if plugged into GFCI-equipped outlets. Never touch an electrical appliance while in a pool or hot tub and keep all electrical appliances at least ten feet away from pools, ponds and wet surfaces. Teach your kids that it is never safe to swim in a pool or lake when a storm is brewing. Also keep in mind that you should never use appliances with extension cords that are frayed or damaged, and always be sure the ground prong is intact.

"Water often attracts kids, but water and electricity never mix," warned Hall. "Teach older children to exercise caution before plugging in a radio, CD player, or any electrical gadget outdoors, and never leave any electrical appliances outside."

When you are done using a radio, CD player or any other electrical gadget outdoors, bring it inside with you. If it rains, the electrical device could get wet and cause an electrical shock when used later.

"Spring showers bring more than tempting puddles for kids to splash in, they can also leave electric hazards behind," Hall added. "Flooded areas are never safe spots to wade or play in, and may be in contact with energized electrical equipment or fallen power lines."

Make sure all of your family members know to stay away from downed power lines and wires, and tell children to report any fallen or dangling wires to an adult. Downed power lines are extremely dangerous for children as well as adults. Always assume that any power line is fully charged and stay far away. Call your local electric company immediately if you or your child encounters a downed power line, and include this number with other posted emergency phone numbers.

## \$450,700 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 \$450,700. This payment continues a strong tradition of equity revolvment at Red Lake Electric.

90 percent of the remaining balance of capital credits assigned to members in 1996 will be paid out. Active members, if they received electric

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

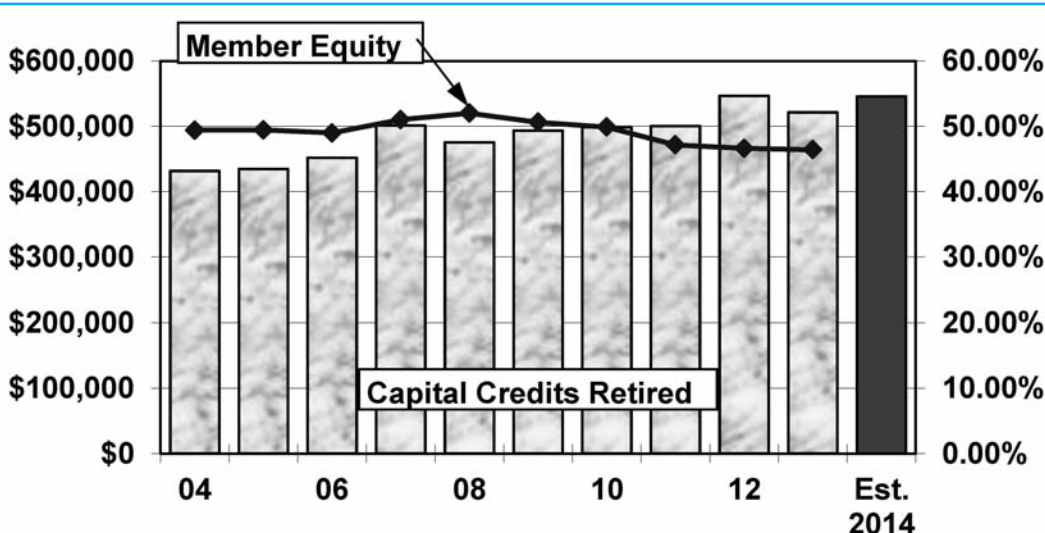
retains those capital credits for a number of years for financial security and to reduce debt.

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.

### 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 2013 and retirement of member equity (Capital Credits) information for 2014. 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 retired \$10.6 million of Capital Credits to its members.



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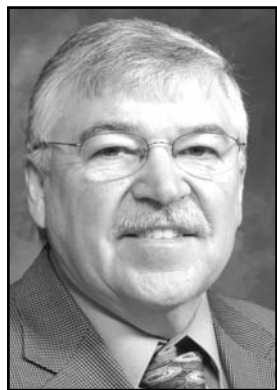
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## Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



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 2013 annual report and more information about the business that we'll take care of the day of the Annual meeting. 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 26th in Thief River Falls.

I encourage you to look over the annual report booklet included in this month's Volts and Jolts. In addition to facts and figures that give you a financial picture of your Cooperative, the report gives members some insight as to other accomplishments and activity that took place at Red Lake Electric this past year.

In conjunction with our annual meeting theme of "Your reliable energy partner", we have invited Luther Kvernén, from Minnkota Power Cooperative, as our guest speaker. I have sat in on numerous meetings where Luther has presented information on the work

and challenges of keeping Minnkota's Milton R. Young station up and running. Providing a reliable source of generation to meet the power supply needs for Red Lake Electric and the Minnkota member systems is a big responsibility, and I know you will find what Luther has to share about meeting this challenge very interesting.

Something we started at our annual meeting last year that we'll be doing again is serving a sit-down dinner for attendees. Members at last year's meeting voiced their appreciation of being served their meal without having to maneuver a lunch line and a trip back to the table with their hands and arms full of things to carry. Employees and Directors heard you and so we will be serving your meal again.

Equally important to the business that we are required to take care of at our annual meeting, I think, is the chance for members to visit with the employees that are working for them and the directors that are representing them at the Cooperative. (6303003.01 Clearwater Church) What you have to say about your electric service needs is important to us and we encourage your input.

In addition to trading stories and sharing a meal with our neighbors, we'll elect three directors, hear about what is happening at your Cooperative, listen to some music and give away some prizes. I hope you can join us at the Cooperative's annual meeting on March 26th in Thief River Falls.

**Operation Round-Up surpasses milestone.**

I'd like to add my two cents to the Operation Round-up report information that has been included again in this year's annual report. While the round up pennies donated may go unnoticed by the many members that have their bills rounded up each month, the accomplishments of Operation Round-Up do not. Donations from the program surpassed the \$400 thousand mark this past year; a true testimony of what can be accomplished when people work together toward a common goal. Operation Round-Up has impacted the lives of many in a good way; what you have agreed to do by rounding up your monthly energy bill is making a difference. My hat's off and thanks to all of you that have had a hand in the success of the Operation Round-Up program.

## Annual lignite education seminar accepting registrations

Registration is now open for the Lignite Energy Council's 29th annual Teacher Education Seminar: Energy, Economics and Environment.

The four-day seminar gives elementary, middle and high school teachers in North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota and Montana a first-hand look at North Dakota's fifth largest industry, lignite mining and related energy production. The seminar will be held June 16-19 at Bismarck State College's National Energy Center of Excellence in Bismarck.

"Teachers are encouraged to register early as space is limited and the seminar fills up quickly," said Renee Walz, Lignite Energy Council director of

member services and education. "One of the biggest draws of our seminar is that it offers two graduate credits paid for by the Lignite Energy Council, (5533003.03 Matthew J. and Shana Lanctot) not to mention the popular tours of a lignite mine, power plant and the Great Plains Synfuels Plant."

Teachers who attend and complete a lesson plan can choose from one of three North Dakota institutions from which to receive their graduate credits: University of North Dakota, North Dakota State University and Minot State University.

The seminar provides instruction on these topics and more: history, geology, land reclamation, environmental protection, economics of the lignite

industry, the need for more workers, energy conservation and transmission. In addition to the classroom instruction and the tours, teachers will take home handouts, videos, coal samples and activities that can be used in the classroom.

Teachers from all grade levels should apply before April 11. The online application for all teachers is available at <http://www.lignite.com/teachers>

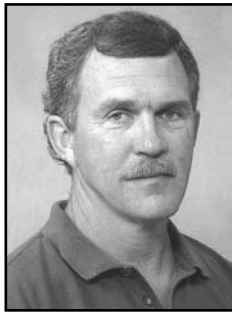
The Lignite Energy Council is a regional trade association representing North Dakota lignite producers, electric utilities and 360 businesses providing goods and services to the mines and plants. The lignite industry generates approximately \$3.3 billion in gross business volume within the state.

## RLEC Closed Good Friday

In observance of Easter, Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Friday, April 18.

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

This past fall I was diagnosed with a form of cancer which led to surgery and being off work for five weeks.

Throughout the diagnosis, surgery and recovery I received many well wishes. These wishes included person to person conversations, phone conversations, emails, cards and letters. The wishes were extended by family, friends, co-workers, peers, fellow church members, fellow Lions members and others.

I was humbled by all of the support and prayers that were bestowed upon me. It made me aware there is another reason why it is great to live here in rural Minnesota.

What did I learn?

It is truly a blessing to have a loving caring family and community that rallies for you in a time of uncertainty and need.

As most of us anxiously await the true arrival of spring, we are pleased that we can soon say goodbye to a long, cold winter that included a fair amount of snow.

Some people are skeptical of the Farmers' Almanac's weather predictions. With time it was proven the prediction for this winter's weather was correct. I have heard, but not researched, that over the years the Farmers' Almanac is relatively close in predictions 80% of the time. That means the Almanac's forecast will be correct eight out of 10 times. This is a relatively

high percentage when predicting the weather a year in advance.

Meteorologists with state of the art electronic equipment can have a difficult time predicting the weather for only a few days in advance.

What have we learned?

The Farmers' Almanac's predictions, along with the signs from Mother-Nature, often are a true indicator of what we will experience in terms of weather.

Along with the long, cold winter we also witnessed propane prices tripling in a few short months.

Prior to the fall harvest, the price of propane was in the \$1.50 per gallon range. The more normal (wetter crops) harvest conditions created a big need for propane to dry corn and other fall crops. This demand was not relaxed as we transitioned from fall harvest into the need for heating fuel in early November. Again the demand did not relax as the cold temperatures continued for nearly four months with little exception. This on-going call for propane led to prices reaching \$4.50 per gallon and higher.

The increased price of propane was cause for many people to evaluate what they have for (6032002.03 Darrell Payment) home heating equipment and explore their options. It generated a lot of phone calls to us at Red Lake Electric. The

questions ranged from – How does the propane prices compare to off-peak electric and even regular electric rates? – to – What are my options for getting some type of electric heat equipment to be a part of my heating system?

In case you are wondering, off-peak electric rates are favorable to propane at \$1.50 per gallon or any price higher.

What have we learned?

There is more than one reason why we (Red Lake Electric employees) have marketed and suggested a dual-fuel heating system for over 30 years. A dual heat system not only provides a dependable, reasonable heating system but also a system with a fuel supply choice.

My hope is if you or a loved one is faced with an unexpected challenge, like I was that a "community" will be there to help meet the challenge.

I think it would be safe to say that most of us are looking forward to warmer temperatures and nicer weather. We are ready to put the winter weather and forecast to rest.

And lastly, If you do not have an off-peak, dual-fuel heating system in your home now is the time to explore the options. Take action before we are faced with another heating season.

Happy Spring – Happy Easter!

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## Mission Statement

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 employees, our community and our environment in high regard.



**Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

*One of the Minnkota Power Systems*



## RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc. VOLTS & JOLTS

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Steven Linder, Peter Mosbeck,  
Colette Kujava, Randy Versdahl,  
Stacy Blawat  
**Subscription Rate \$2.50 per year**

## NOTICE

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of the Volts & Jolts are the names and account numbers of some RLEC members. They will appear within the articles in parenthesis as such (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.



**Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

*One of the Minnkota Power Systems*

## 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 drive-up 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 \$60 collection fee will be charged to your account, even if you pay the collector.

To have a disconnected service reconnect, all amounts owing, a \$60 reconnection fee, and a security deposit must be paid. If the service must be reconnected after normal working hours, a \$120 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

In case your electricity goes out, please do the following:

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 only.

### 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-December ..... 9.5¢ Kwh  
January-March ..... 9.9¢ Kwh  
Multiphase users add \$22/month cost of service charge.

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.







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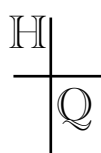
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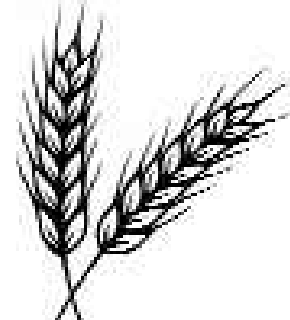
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## VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

# Managing Oscarson Angus requires team effort

By Heather Blodgett

Improving the herd is the main goal of Oscarson Angus, owned and operated by Tom and Pam Oscarson. On their farm, located north of Red Lake Falls, they raise Angus beef cattle that are sold as seed stock across the region.

Tom grew up on a farm, so the decision to continue farming was natural for him. "I've been around cattle my entire life," he explained. "My dad had dairy cattle."

The couple started with beef cattle before briefly switching to dairy cattle. In 1988 they made the decision to go back to beef cattle for seed stock. The obvious breed of choice for the pair was Angus. "It's the quality of the meat," said Tom. "There is enough marbling in the meat to give it texture, flavor and all that good stuff," he said with a smile. Corn, wheat, beans, hay and alfalfa are also grown on the farm for cattle feed and sale.

Tom and Pam have a unique partnership in their operation. He credits her as the driving force behind producing quality cattle. "Pam was always interested in what was going on outside," explained Tom of her eagerness to get out and help on the farm. "The cattle part of the operation is really Pam's. She enjoys it and I appreciate that."

"I enjoy the cattle," agreed Pam. "Just being around them and trying to improve the herd." She accomplishes this through hours of research and ample time spent with her cattle to understand the traits of each one. She studies them to specifically pair two parents

to ensure the offspring produced is of high quality.

Pam researches the bulls used to breed as they artificially inseminate to produce the offspring. She peruses semen catalogs of several companies, but also buys privately. "You have to find successful producers and look at the traits of those cattle to narrow it down from the thousands," she explained. "I try to find bulls that will give us good feet and udders, and that will improve muscling. We strive to get better and better every year with every generation."

The farm usually has around 50 brood cows, however Tom is quick to point out that numbers aren't what matters, because their focus is on quality, not quantity.

While bulls and heifers are kept from year to year, most or all of the calves will be sold into another herd. All of the animals sold are yearlings and haven't yet been bred. Sometimes heifers, or ladies as Tom calls them, are kept to replenish their own stock.

Oscarson Angus is a closed herd, meaning they never bring in live cattle from anywhere else and the only way they propagate their herd is through artificial insemination. Cows are kept for production for an average of eight to 10 years.

Oscarson Angus sells most of their stock locally in Minnesota and North Dakota. They have worked with buyers from South Dakota and Wyoming as well. The business advertises in both the Northern Watch and the Grand Forks Herald in addition to sending flyers out to past customers.



Pam and Tom Oscarson, of rural Red Lake Falls, have built their herd of registered Angus cattle over a 25 year period.

The couple experiences many repeat customers, some of which don't even request to see the yearlings before purchase. That is very unusual in the business, but those customers know the quality of Oscarson Angus.

They are confident in the product they are purchasing so they don't feel the need to see the yearlings first. Some even know they want a particular bloodline from the herd and pick out yearlings as early as January or February.

Pam keeps careful records of weights and registrations to submit to the Angus Association, who completes a report on the animals. The farm has been recognized by the association many times over the years for the high

quality of their Angus, even being bestowed with the Pathfinder Cow Award, the top award from the association, four times in the last year alone.

While they work hard keeping Oscarson Angus successful, the couple also takes time to enjoy the quiet, country life on the farm. "Long ago, someone told me we'll never live where the corn won't grow," Tom said with a grin, indicating Pam was that someone. "I'll never forget that. It's one of my favorite things I've ever had said to me."

Pam quilts, crochets and gardens while Tom competes in 1,000 yard bench rest shooting meets, even loading his own precision bullets.

They've raised six children, who are all grown, on the farm. "Every one of them knew how to work," commented Tom. "They would show the cattle in 4-H as each child had one that was theirs."

"It's a very good learning experience for kids," said Pam of her children growing up on the farm.

The line between work and play blurs as Pam tells the story of Maxine, a cow who has almost turned into a pet for the family.

Maxine was born as half of a set of twins and the mother cow wanted nothing to do with her, even refusing to feed her. Therefore, Maxine was bottle fed and formed a bond that set her apart from the other cattle. She went on to

produce good cattle for the business and has become a leader for the herd.

Maxine is very calm, a trait that is evident in her offspring as well, and she'll get the rest of the cattle to move wherever is needed. If her name is called out she'll come over to be petted, or hum in response. Maxine is a favorite of the couple's 16 grandchildren as well.

"It's our home. It's our business. It's where our grandkids want to come and spend time playing on the hay bales and riding machinery," Pam revealed.

"It's truly a home away from home for all the grandkids," agreed Tom. "They just really enjoy it, and we really enjoy it."



Pam and Tom Oscarson pour ground feed into the feed trough for the Angus bulls on their farm.

The calving barn at Oscarson Angus is equipped with two electric heated calving pens. Each cow-calf pair is kept in the pen for a few days following the birth. (Additional photos appear on page 5)



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The pet cow on the Oscarson farm is named Maxine. She enjoys being petted, as shown here with her owner, Pam. Maxine was a twin at birth, rejected by her mother and raised as a bottle calf.



The Angus cows on the Oscarson farm were content as they bedded down on a blanket of straw on a sunny winter day.



The Oscarsons have a reputation for producing and providing high quality stock. They continually do research on sires to match them up with dams, through artificial insemination, to improve the offspring of their herd.



The end products on the Oscarson farm of Red Lake Falls are prized, registered Angus bulls that are offered for sale in early spring each year. All the bulls are sold directly from the farm with many being purchased by repeat customers. The fact that some of the animals are sold “sight unseen” is a testament to the quality of animals and operation on the Oscarson farm.

## Another Great Choice *for* Good Health



Carly Haas, PA-C is available for patients of all ages at RiverView Clinic-Red Lake Falls.

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## After-Hours Outage

### Phone

# 218-253-2200

## 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](http://www.redlakeelectric.com).

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



*Over the years, many things have changed, but the one thing that will never change is the love you share.*

When you purchase a life insurance policy from Auto-Owners Insurance, you can rest easy knowing you're protecting the ones you love. Talk to your local independent agent representing Auto-Owners Insurance about the life insurance options available.

**Red Lake County Insurance**  
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**218-253-2177 • [rlci@gvtel.com](mailto:rlci@gvtel.com)**  
**[www.redlakecountyinsurance.com](http://www.redlakecountyinsurance.com)**





## March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Colorectal cancer is the nation's second leading cancer killer of men and women in the United States and a cause of considerable suffering among the 137,000 adults diagnosed with colorectal cancer each year.

In 2010 more than 52,000 Americans died from this cancer. However, when colorectal cancer is detected early illness and death can be prevented. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is (2734001.04 Ruth Tostrup) committed to boosting public awareness about the importance of screening and treatment for colorectal cancer.

Colorectal cancer poses the greatest risk to adults over the age of 50, and the United States Preventive Services Task Force recommends that all individuals aged 50-75 be screened for colorectal cancer as part of their routine preventive health care.

Currently about 1 in 3 adults between the ages of 50 and 75 are not receiving the recommended screening. These are

most likely to be Hispanics, those aged 50-64, men, American Indian or Alaska natives, those who don't live in a city and people with lower education and income.

With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, a major barrier to regular screening—cost of access to preventive care—has been removed. For the first time in our nation's history many Americans can receive, without cost sharing, high value preventive services, such as screening for colorectal cancer and other diseases that threaten health and shorten lives.

Colorectal cancer and death from this disease can be prevented thanks to effective screening tools. Many people do not realize that three tests, colonoscopy, highly sensitive stool tests (FOBT, fecal occult blood test, or FIT, fecal immunochemical test) and flexible sigmoidoscopy, are all effective at finding cancer early. The best test is the test that gets done.

In summary, colorectal cancer screening has been proven to save lives. Increasing the nation's screening rate to 80 percent by the year 2018 is absolutely possible but there is much work to be done, especially in communities where those without insurance can't regularly access the health care system.

We need greater national efforts to inform and remind appropriate patients that they are due for colorectal cancer screening, and ensure that all Americans between the ages of 50 and 75 receive this important life-saving intervention.

Source: U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. *United States Cancer Statistics: 1999-2010 Incidence and Mortality Web-based Report*. Atlanta (GA): Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and National Cancer Institute; 2013. Available on the website: <http://www.cdc.gov/uscs>

# The Value of an Ag Producer? ...Priceless



## Farmer's Share of Retail Food Dollar

Did you know that farmers and ranchers receive only 15.8\* cents of every food dollar that consumers spend on food at home and away from home?

According to USDA, off farm costs including marketing, processing, wholesaling, distribution and retailing account for more than 80 cents of every food dollar spent in the United States.

<b>Bacon</b> 1 Pound  Retail: \$6.06 Farmer: \$1.04	<b>Top Sirloin Steak</b> 1 Pound  Retail: \$7.99 Farmer: \$1.93	<b>Bread</b> 1 Pound  Retail: \$2.69 Farmer: \$0.17	<b>Fresh Carrots</b> 5 Pounds  Retail: \$4.39 Farmer: \$1.53***	<b>Beer</b> 6-Pack Cans  Retail: \$6.49 Farmer: \$0.06
<b>Cereal</b> 18 Ounce Box  Retail: \$4.69 Farmer: \$0.10	<b>Tomatoes</b> 1 Pound  Retail: \$2.99 Farmer: \$0.58***	<b>Eggs</b> 1 Dozen  Retail: \$2.89 Farmer: \$1.04	<b>Flour</b> 5 Pounds  Retail: \$3.49 Farmer: \$0.83	<b>Boneless Ham</b> Price per Pound  Retail: \$3.99 Farmer: \$1.04
<b>Lettuce</b> 1 Head (2 Pounds)  Retail: \$2.79 Farmer: \$1.03***	<b>Milk</b> 1 Gallon, Fat Free  Retail: \$4.19 Farmer: \$1.64	<b>Potato Chips</b> Lays Classic, 10.5 oz  Retail: \$4.29 Farmer: \$0.23**	<b>Fresh Potatoes</b> Russet, 5 Pounds  Retail: \$5.49 Farmer: \$0.75**	<b>Soda</b> Two Liter Bottle  Retail: \$1.49 Farmer: \$0.11

Farmer's share derived from USDA, NASS "Agricultural Prices" 2013.

Retail based on Safeway (SF) brand except where noted.

\*Figure according to U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service

\*\*Reflects June 2013 prices.

\*\*\*Reflects March 2013 prices.

Source: Wisconsin Farmers Union

Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis. But too few people truly understand this contribution.

- Today's American farmer feeds more than 155 people worldwide.
- Agriculture employs more than 24 million American workers.
- Elevators in the Statue of Liberty use a soybean-based hydraulic fluid.
- Americans enjoy a food supply that is abundant, affordable overall, and among the world's safest, thanks in a large part to the efficiency and productivity of America's farm and ranch families.



# We Salute Our Farmers



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## Minutes of the 2013 annual meeting of Red Lake Electric Cooperative members

The 75th annual meeting of the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held Wednesday, March 27, 2013 in the Imperial Room of the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls. President Bonnie Christians called the meeting to order at 10:30 am. Approximately 310 members and guests were in attendance.

Christians thanked Vern Rogalla for the pre-meeting musical entertainment he provided. The Lafayette Everyday Choir, under the direction of Jennifer Wieland from Lafayette High School in Red Lake Falls, sang the national anthem. Roger Johanneck gave an invocation and current board members were introduced by Christians.

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

Christians entertained a motion that the 2012 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 her President's report, Christians talked about the meaning of "when the lights came on" and how that phrase meant something different to the Cooperative's first members. Christians stated that Red Lake Electric Cooperative has been making a difference in the lives and livelihoods of its members since the day the lights came on.

Christians then introduced the audience to a video titled "When the Lights Came On". The story is told by RLEC members and is their experience of what life was like at home before electricity and what it meant to have power hooked up to their homes. After the video Christians called on the members who participated in the video to stand, be recognized, and thanked.

Roger Johanneck, general manager, started out his report by complimenting those who helped produce and print the nice 75th annual report to the membership. Johanneck stated that Minnkota Power did the lay out and printing, member service manager Kevin Reich provided the majority of pictures and office manager Shirley Bregier provided all of the financial reports.

Johanneck then discussed differences and similarities from today's Cooperative to that from the early years of Red Lake Electric. In the early years, the Cooperative's biggest challenges were obtaining materials

to build the electric system and building electrical load. Today's biggest challenge is complying with stricter environmental regulations, the renewable energy mandate and conservation improvement program. Johanneck encouraged members, who have asked how they can help the Cooperative, to contact legislators with the simple message, "Keep electricity affordable".

Johanneck also acknowledged the newest employee of the Cooperative, Christine Klipping, and thanked retiring employees since the last annual meeting: Steve Barbot, Kathy LaPlante, Beverly Schmitz and Mike Wavra.

Johanneck closed out his report by stating that the Cooperative has been a successful organization for 75 years because of the good member support and involvement. Johanneck stated that support is shown in various ways such as landowners granting easements to build the system, clearing snow in yards so employees have easy access to maintain electrical services, and for using the product of electric energy. Johanneck thanked the members for their participation at the meeting and congratulated them on their Cooperative's 75th anniversary.

Bregier next gave the 2012 Financial Report and said energy sales were down from the previous year (3707001.02 Kenneth Halvorson) largely as a result of a milder winter and conservation improvements members have made to their homes and businesses.

The Cooperative sold 122.7 million kWh's in 2012. Revenues were \$13.2 million, the cost of wholesale power was \$9.6 million and operating expenses were \$1.8 million. Bregier said the Cooperative's margin was \$775 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's cost of wholesale power comprises three-fourth of the Cooperative's cost of doing business.

Christians next introduced Wally Lang, Vice-President of Transmission, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Grand Forks. Lang gave an in depth look at the construction of Minnkota's Center to Grand Forks' 345 kv line. Lang stated that the construction of the line was needed to meet the growing need for energy and

for reliability. Lang added that the Center to Grand Forks transmission line project is the bridge that links members to a long-term energy supply and more reliable service. Lang also stated that the construction of the 250-mile line is scheduled to be completed in late 2013 or early 2014 at a cost of approximately \$312 million.

President Christians 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. Christians then declared the following people duly elected as directors for three-year terms: District 3, Colette Kujava; District 6, Randy Versdahl; and District 9, Peter Mosbeck.

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

A safety award was presented to RLEC employee Bob Guillemette in recognition of his safe work record. He was honored for surpassing five-year increments of accident-free work with 30 years now achieved.

Bonnie Christians, ex-officio director of the Red Lake Electric Trust board, presented a \$750 grant check to Gordon Henrickson of the Goodridge Senior Citizens of Goodridge. Henrickson thanked the members for their participation in the Operation Round Up program and said the grant would be used to help put a new copper colored roof on the senior citizens center, symbolic of the pennies rounded up by the generous members of RLEC.

Kevin Reich awarded door prizes and a special attendance prize to long-term member and frequent meeting attendee Marie Chaput of Red Lake Falls.

A sit-down dinner was prepared by St. Joseph's Catholic Guild of Red Lake Falls and served by employees and directors of RLEC.

Meeting attendees were entertained by the musical foursome "Trinity Trio" of Thief River Falls while eating their dinner.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Christians, President  
Mark Hanson, Secretary-  
Treasurer

**711 +/- ACRES • RED LAKE & POLK COUNTIES, MN**

# LAND AUCTION

**Thursday, March 27, 2014 – 2:30 p.m. (CT)**

**Property features good cropland, CRP & an outstanding building site!**

**AUCTION LOCATION: Erskine Community Center – Erskine, MN**

**PARCEL 1 - RED LAKE COUNTY**  
**Acres:** 153 +/-; **Cropland:** 148 +/- acres  
**Legal:** NE¼ 7-150-43

**PARCEL 1A - RED LAKE COUNTY**  
**Acres:** 7 +/- (BUILDING SITE)  
**Legal:** 7 +/- ac. NE¼ NE¼ NE¼ 7-150-43  
Fantastic building site with HWY access!

**PARCEL 2 - RED LAKE COUNTY**  
**Acres:** 148.8 +/-; **Legal:** SW¼ 19-150-43  
**CRP:** 223 acres (Parcels 2 & 3 Combined)

**PARCEL 3 - RED LAKE COUNTY**  
**Acres:** 160 +/-; **Legal:** SE¼ 19-150-43  
**CRP:** 223 acres (Parcels 2 & 3 Combined)

**PARCEL 4 - POLK COUNTY**  
**Acres:** 121 +/-; **Cropland:** 114 +/- acres  
**Legal:** E½ & W½ all east of RR less Farmstead in NW¼ 10-148-42

**PARCEL 5 - POLK COUNTY**  
**Acres:** 71 +/-; **Cropland:** 66 +/- acres  
**Legal:** NE¼ SW¼ less Cemetery & Part of W½ SW¼ all east of RR, all in 10-148-42

**PARCEL 6 - POLK COUNTY**  
**Acres:** 40 +/- (ALL CROPLAND)  
**Legal:** NW¼ SE¼ 10-148-42

**CONTACT: Steve Dalen - 701.893.8517**

**OWNER: Randy Kroeplin**

This sale is managed by Pifer's Auction & Realty. All statements made the day of the auction take precedence over all printed materials. The seller reserves the right to reject or accept any and all bids. Parcel 1A (building site) is subject to prior sale. Pifer's Auction & Realty, 1506 29th Ave S, Moorhead, MN 56560. Kevin Pifer, MN-#14-106.

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# Dining in the Dark

By B. Denise Hawkins

Storm-induced power outages can take you by surprise. If you've lost power and have a refrigerator full of food, make sure time and temperatures are on your side.

If your home's power is interrupted for two hours or less, losing perishable foods shouldn't be a concern. When an outage is prolonged, it's time to decide when to save and when to toss food away.

A digital quick-response thermometer can be one of the most useful tools you can wield in your battle to preserve food. The gadget checks the internal temperature of food, ensuring items are cold enough to eat safely.

Use these food safety tips to help you minimize food loss and reduce the risk of foodborne illness:

ness:

## Refrigerated Food

Keep refrigerator doors closed as much as possible. An unopened refrigerator keeps food cold for about four hours.

If food (especially meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and leftovers) has been exposed to temperatures above 40 degrees Fahrenheit for two or more hours, or has an unusual odor, texture, or color, get rid of it. Remember the American Red Cross food safety rule: "When in doubt, throw it out."

Never taste food to determine its safety or rely on appearance or odor.

Use perishable foods first, then frozen food.

To keep perishable food cold, place them in a refrigerator or cooler and cover with ice.

## Frozen Food

A full freezer stays colder longer. Freeze containers of water to help keep food cold in the freezer. If your water supply runs out, melting ice can supply drinking water.

If you keep the door closed, a full freezer keeps the temperature for approximately 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full).

If food in the freezer is colder than 40 degrees (113/2003.02 Emory Flaten) Fahrenheit, is partially thawed, and has ice crystals on it, you can safely refreeze it.

Always discard frozen or perishable food items that have come into contact with raw meat juices.

Find more tips at [www.FoodSafety.gov](http://www.FoodSafety.gov)

Sources: American Red Cross, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



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## 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 weekend 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.

# AUTO PAY SIGN-UP SHEET

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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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION \_\_\_\_\_

CHECKING ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_

SAVINGS ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_

SIGN HERE TO AUTHORIZE \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this authorization form with a blank, voided check to:  
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Web site [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com)



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Customer cash -1,750  
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**\$35,028**

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Silver Ice Metallic Stock #48145

Tungsten Metallic Stock #48148



## 2014 Chevrolet Malibu 1LT

Block Heater, Rear Camera.

Universal Home Remote, Remote Vehicle Entry

MSRP \$25,835  
Supplier Price \$24,747  
Customer cash -1,750  
Auto Show -500

**\$22,497**

Atlantis Blue Metallic Stock #48138

Champagne Silver Metallic Stock #48137



## 2014 Chevrolet Sonic LS

Power Locks, Automatic

Blue Topaz Stock #48069

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Thibert Discount -274

**\$16,320**



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2012 Chev 1500 LT 4x4, Chrome, 16k, Mocha Steel	\$29,100
2008 Chev 1500 LT 4x4 Z71, 71k, Silver	\$21,500
2008 Chev 1500 LT 4x4, 20" Wheels, 75k, Maroon	\$19,900
2007 GMC 1500 Sierra, 4x4 Z71, 70k, White	\$18,900
2006 Chev 1500 LT 4x4 Z71, 81k, Black	\$16,200
2003 Chev 1500 LS 4x4 Z71, 146k, Black	\$9,995
2003 Chev 1500 LS 4x4, 155k, Gray	\$9,900
2003 Chev 1500 4x4 LS, 129k, Silver	\$10,900
2002 Chev 1500 LS Z71 4x4, 129k, Gray	\$9,200
1999 GMC 1500 SLE 4x4, 213k, Silver	\$4,995
1997 Chev 1500 4x2, V8, Auto, Blue/Green	\$3,995

### USED REG CAB AND COMPACT PICKUPS

2012 Chev Reg Cab 4x4, 33k,	\$20,700
2011 Chev Colorado Crew Cab, LT 4x2	\$18,500
2002 Chev 1500 LS 4x4, 166k, Red	\$6,500

### USED 3/4 TON PICKUPS

2012 Chev 3500HD, Crew Cab 4x4, 6.6 Duramax, 47k, Gray	\$40,200
2008 Chev 3500HD Crew Cab 4x4, 6.6 Duramax, 128k, White	\$27,900
2004 Chev 2500LT Crew Cab 4x4, 6.0, Memory Heated Leather, 114k, Black	\$15,900
2001 Chev 3500HD Reg Cab, Dually, 6.6 Duramax Diesel, 103k, Red	\$13,300

### USED 1/2 TON CREW CAB PICKUPS

2013 Chev 1500 LT 4x4, Chrome Package, 153k, Blue	\$32,100
2012 Chev 1500 LTZ 4x4, 51k, diamond white	\$31,000
2011 Chev 1500 LT 4x4 Z71, 59k, Steel Green	\$25,900
2011 Chev 1500 LT 4x4 Z71, 38k, Gray	\$26,900
2011 Chev 1500 LT 4x4 Z71, 34k, Silver Green	\$27,500
2011 Chev 1500 LTZ 4x4, 37k, Gray	\$30,200
2010 Chev 1500 LT 4x4 Z71, 93k, Blue	\$21,500
2010 Ford F150 SuperCrew Platinum, Loaded, 40k, Black	\$33,000
2010 Chev 1500 LT 4x4, 61k, Gray	\$25,100
2010 Chev 1500 LT 4x4 Z71, 39k, Blue	\$27,900
2010 Chev 1500 LT 4x4 Z71, 90k, Silver	\$22,900
2010 Chev 1500 LT 4x4 Z71, 52k, Gray	\$24,900
2009 Chev 1500 LT 4x4 Z71, 72k, Maroon	\$23,300
2009 Chev 1500 LTZ 4x4 Z71, Heated Leather, 104k, Black	\$22,900
2009 Chev 1500 LT 4x4 Z71, 93k, Red	\$21,900
2009 Chev 1500 LT 4x4 Z71, 43k, Blue Granite	\$23,900
2009 GMC 1500 SLE 4x4 Z71, 116k, Red	\$20,500
2008 Chev 1500 LT 4x4, 85k, Blue Granite	\$19,995
2006 Dodge 1500 Mega Cab SLT 4x4, 127k, Blue	\$17,900
2005 Chev 1500 LT 4x4 Z71, 96k, Silver	\$16,900
2005 Chev 1500 LS 4x4 Z71, 163k, Silver	\$10,900
2004 Chev 1500 LS 4x4 Z71, 175k, Gray	\$10,500

### USED SUVS

2013 Chev Equinox 1LT AWD, 13k, Gray	\$26,400
2013 Chev Equinox 2LT AWD, Heated Seats, 17k, Silver	\$27,000
2011 Chev Traverse LT AWD, 63k, Silver	\$19,900
2011 Cadillac SRX FWD, 49k, Performance Ed, Nav, Sunroof, Loaded, Mocha	\$27,200
2010 Chev Traverse 2LT AWD, Heated Leather, DVD, 106k, Silver	\$15,100
2007 Chev Suburban LT3, Heated Leather, Bose, Rear Entertainment, Sunroof, 176k, Silver	\$15,900
2004 Chev Tahoe Z71 4x4, 81k, Silver	
2002 Chev Suburban LT Z71, 136k, Silver	\$8,900

### USED VANS

2013 Dodge Gr Caravan, 16,900 mi, Black	\$22,900
2011 Dodge Gr Caravan, 43k, Dark Blue	\$17,900
2008 Chev Uplander, DVD, PW Door, 96k, Maroon	\$8,900
2007 Dodge Gr Caravan, SXT, 123k, Silver	\$7,300
2007 Dodge Gr Caravan, SXT, DVD, 102k, White	\$8,900

### USED CARS

2013 Chev Impala LT, Sunroof, 12k, Gray	\$18,400
2013 Chev Impala LTZ, Heated Leather, 16k, Silver	\$19,500
2013 Chev Impala LT, Sunroof, 23k, Red	\$17,500
2012 Chev Malibu LT, Heated Seats, Sunroof, 28k, Brown	\$16,995
2012 Chev Impala LT, Cloth, Sunroof, 16600 mi, Silver	\$17,500
2012 Chev Malibu LT, Power Seat, Remote Start, 57k, Brown	\$13,300
2011 Chev Cruze LT, Sunroof, 36k, Red	\$14,500
2010 Chev Impala LS, Remote Start, 80k, Gray	\$9,900
2009 Chev Impala LT, 81k, Gray	\$10,100
2008 Chev Impala LT, Heated Leather, Bose, 93k, Red Jewel	\$9,400
2008 Chev Impala LT, Heated Leather, 60k, Gray	\$12,900
2008 Chev Impala LT, Heated Leather, 105k, Gold	\$8,995
2008 Chev Impala LT, 86k, Red	\$9,900
2007 Chev Impala LT, 76k, Gray	\$10,900
2007 Chev Impala LT, 76k, Red	\$10,900
2007 Chev HHR 2LT, Heated Leather, Sunroof, 123k, Cappuccino	\$7,100
2007 Chev HHR 2LT, Heated Leather, 77k, Gold	\$8,600
2002 Ford Taurus SE, 169k, White	\$2,995
2001 Dodge Intrepid SE, 145k, Silver	\$2,995
2001 Chrysler Sebring, Convertible LXI, Leather, 176,600 mi, Maroon	\$2,900
2001 Mercury Grand Marquis LS, 139k, Maroon	\$4,995

### USED CARS

2010 Buick Enclave CXL FWD, Leather, BU Camera, 67k, Crystal Red	\$22,500
2010 Buick Enclave CXL FWD, Leather, BU Camera, 44k, Crystal Red	\$25,995
2010 Buick Enclave CXL FWD, Leather, BU Camera, 40k, Green	\$25,500
2007 Buick Lucerne CXL, Heated Leather, 112k, White Diamond	\$9,500
2007 Buick Lucerne CXL, Heated Leather, 122k, Black	\$9,800
2007 Buick Lucerne CXL, Sunroof, Heated Leather, 100k, Silver	\$11,995
2006 Buick Lucerne CXL, Heated Leather, 105k, Gray	\$10,500
2006 Buick Lucerne CXL, Sunroof, Heated Leather, 110k, Silver	\$10,900
2001 Buick Regal LS, Leather, 209k, Silver	\$2,600

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