

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. 46 - NO. 07

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

MAY 2011

May is Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and Red Lake Electric Cooperative is joining with the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) to promote a healthy respect for electricity and increase awareness of electrical hazards.

Electricity is an increasing presence in our modern lives. As our reliance on electricity grows, so does the potential for electrical safety hazards. Electrical incidents and fires disrupt countless lives and result in the loss of billions of dollars in productivity and assets each year.

The most recent statistical data from the National Fire Protection Association indicates an annual average of almost 51,000 home fires involving electrical failure or malfunction, claiming nearly 500 lives, injuring more than 1,400 people, and resulting in more than \$1.3 billion in property damage. In addition, statistics from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission show that nearly 400 people are electrocuted in the United States

The Electrical Safety Foundation International sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May to increase (7122004.01 William L. Langlois) public awareness of the electrical hazards around us at home, work, school,



and play. This year's campaign challenges people across the country to evaluate the electrical safety of their own homes, learning more about their electrical systems and electrical devices in the process. Outreach materials feature tools to help with the identification and correction of potential electrical hazards before a more serious situation

"Recognizing National Electrical Safety Month this May is an opportunity for us to make a difference in our community by helping others avoid the personal tragedy behind these statistics," said Kevin Reich, member services manager. "We're excited to be part of this national effort to raise awareness about potential home electrical hazards and the importance of electrical safety."

Electrical safety awareness and education among consumers, families, employees, and communities

will prevent electrical fires, injuries, and fatalities. Making a few easy changes to improve safety can also lead to increased energy efficiency and savings on utility

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May to increase public awareness of the electrical hazards around us at home, work, school, and play. ESFI is a non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety.

Visit http://virtualhome.esfi.org to learn more about home electrical

In this month's **Volts and Jolts**

Page 2

Manager's Comments Electrical Safety Month Report from the Office

Page 3

Economic consequences Recipe Corner March DHIA

Page 4

Feature of the Month Westend Garden Center

Page 5

From the Mail Bag Line Upgrade Photos Surge protection

Page 6 Line Upgrade Photos April DHIA

Page 8 Quick Takes Plant the right tree Tragic farm accident

Power Savers program incentives available

As a directive from the state legislature, Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) must spend money on conservation programs that yield electric (7911001.03 Orville Brinkman) energy savings. Energy conserved must equal 1.5 percent of the Cooperative's total annual kilowatt hour sales.

Power

To help meet this directive the Cooperative is offering Power Savers.

Residential offerings span from a \$2 rebate on compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) to \$400 per ton on a geothermal, closed loop heat pump.

Business incentives apply for lighting, air conditioning, air source heat pumps, geothermal heat pumps, chillers, motors, variable frequency drives, and Energy Star food service equipment.

Rebate forms that list the offerings are posted on RLEC website, www.redlakeelectric.com.

The forms are also available

from the Cooperative or local electrical and heating/cooling contrac-

The accompanying tables list many of the incentives.

Custom applications may also apply to business customers. Most energy conservation measures can

qualifies for an incentive. For additional information, con-

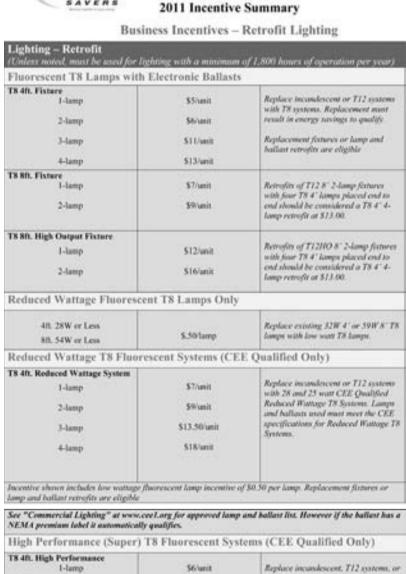
be explored to see if the measure

tact RLEC at 253-2168 or 800-245-



2011 Incentive Summary

Residential Incentives



cifled standard T8 systems with CEE Qualified High Performance mayor) T8 system

\$14/unit

Lamps and ballasts used most meet the CEE specifications for High

Performance T8 Systems

hallast retrofits are eligible. T8 4ft. High Performance - Replacing specific fixtures Replacing T128' one lamp forure -\$20 unit Replacing T12HO 8' one lamp forture one for one replacement on Replacing T128' two lamp fixtures -Replacing T12HO 8' two lamp fixtures one for one replacement only.

Both hallast and lamp must be from CEE approved list to qualify. T8 High-Bay Fluorescent Fixtures with T8 lamps and Electronic Ballasts One for one replacement only. Only when replacing specific wattage HID (Metal Halide, Mercury Vapor and

High Performance (super) T8 systems require manufacturer and model number for ballast and lamps used.

High-Bay T8 Fixtures 4 ft. Lamps		
3-lamp	\$45/unit	Replacing 150 Wast or larger
4-lamp	\$70/unit	Replacing 250 Watt or larger
6-lamp	\$85/unit	Replacing 400 Wart to 749 Watt
6-lamp	S120/unit	Replacing 750 Watt or larger
8-lamp	\$70\unit	Replacing 400 Watt to 749 Watt
8-lamp	\$100'unit	Replacing 750 Watt or larger
10-lamp	\$150/unit	Replacing 1,000 Watt or larger
12-lamp	\$140/unit	Replacing 1,000 Watt or larger
16-lamp	\$130/unit	One 16-lamp or two 8-lamp replacing 1,000 Watt or larger



Power

2011 Incentive Summary

Business Lightin	g Incentives	-New Construction
Lighting - New Construction (Unless noted, must be used for lighting with	th a minimum of I	,800 hours of operation per year)
High Performance (Super) T8 Fluor		
T8 4ft. High Performance 1-lamp 2-lamp 3-lamp 4-lamp	\$6/unit \$7/unit \$12/unit \$14/unit	Both ballasts and lamp most be from CEE approved last and meet the CEE specifications for High Performance T8 Systems in order s qualify.
Low-Wattage T8 Fluorescent System	ms	
T8 4ft. Low Wattage 25W and 28W Systems 1-lamp 2-lamp 3-lamp 4-lamp	\$6/unit \$7/unit \$12/unit \$14/unit	Lamps and ballasts must meet the CEE specifications for High Performance T8 Systems.
T8 High-Bay Fluorescent Fixtures v	with T8 Lamps	and Electronic Ballasts
High-Bay T8 Fixtures – 4 ft. Lamps 2-lamp 4-lamp 6-lamp 8-lamp	\$45/unit \$70/unit \$85/unit \$100/unit	Install T8 fluorescent high-hay fixtures using recommendations from lighting professionals that use lighting design software to match the most efficient design to actual lighting needs. Typically used instead of pulse star metal halide fixtures.

See "Commercial Lighting" at www.ceel.org for approved lamp and ballast list. However if the ballast has a

T5HO High-Bay Fluorescent F with T5 High Output Lamps a		sts
T5HO 4 ft. High-Bay Fixtures 3-lump	\$70/unit	Install TSHO high-buy fixtures uning recommendations from
4-lamp	\$90 unit	lighting professionals that use lighting design software to match
fi-lump	\$125/unit	the most efficient design to actual lighting needs.
		Typically used instead of pulse star metal halide fixtures.

All fluorescent fistures must utilize electronic balla greater than 90%. Harmonic distortion of ballasts s total harmonic distortion shall not exceed 30%.		
LED and Induction Fixtures		
LED or Induction Fixtures (Garage or Exterior use)		
75 W = 104W fixture with equivalent light output to 125W = 175W or greater HID fixture	\$80 unit	LED garage and esterior fixtures should have a minimum efficiency of 35 lumon per watt.
105W - 149W with equivalent light output to 175W - 249W or greater HID fixture	\$100/unit	LED and Induction Technology must be complete fixtures with a
150W - 240W with equivalent light output to 250W - 400W or greater HID floater	\$120/unit	total power reduction of 40% or more, compared to equivalent ligh output HID's.
Exterior Use Only 450W - 600W with equivalent light output to 750W - L000W or greater HID Fixture	\$225/unit	

Lighting and Appliances		
CFL Lamps	Replace incandescent bulbs with Energy Star compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)	\$2/bulb Maximum 12 CFLs/customer
Programmable Thermostat		\$25/unit
Clothes Washer	Energy Star	\$50/unit
Electric Water Heater	Minimum 80 gallon total capacity, EF ≥0.91. Must be controlled under the utility's load management program	\$150/unit
Heating, Ventilation Air	Conditioning (HVAC) Measu	ires
Air Source (ASHP)	Energy Star or 14.0 SEER / 8.25 HSPF	\$250/unit
Supplemental heating source for ASHP	Must modulate to allow Energy Star rated ASHP to operate down to 5°F, and be on load control	\$500/unit
Furnace (Air Handler) with ECM blower	Furnace with ECM blower	\$150
Mini Split/Ductless ASHP	15 SEER	\$500
New furnace/indoor unit insta	llations.	
All efficiency ratings will be ve	erified using the AHRI database (ahr	idirectory.orgj.
Geothermal		
Open Loop <135,000 BTUH @ 59-F	16.2 EER / 3.6 COP	\$200/ton Maximum incentive

Geothermal Open Loop <135,000 BTUH @ 59-F	16.2 EER / 3.6 COP	\$200/ton Maximum incentive \$2,500/home
Closed Loop <135,000 BTUH @ 77-F	14.1 EER / 3.3 COP	\$400/ton Maximum incentive \$5,000/home

All efficiency ratings will be verified using the AHRI database (abridirectory.org).

Units must meet or exceed above efficiency levels or carry an Energy Star qualification.

Requires a heat load calculation to be submitted. Incentive is based off total heating capacity for the home.

If equipped with backup electric heat, home must be on load control or demand billing per local utility offerings.

Water-to-water systems need the manufacturer's specifications indicating the equipment meets incentive requirements.

Replacement Geothermal Open Loop		
<135,000 BTUH @ 59-F	16.2 EER / 3.6 COP	\$100/ton Maximum incentive \$1,250/home
Closed Loop <135,000 BTUH @ 77-F	14.1 EER / 3.3 COP	\$200/ton Maximum incentive \$2,500/home

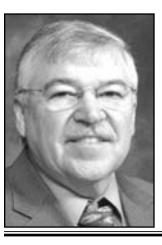
Incentive available for failed geothermal equipment only

Entire indoor unit replacement is required to receive incentive. Replacing only the compressor will not qualify for the incentive.

Equipment must meet or exceed efficiency requirements.

Equipment being replaced must fall outside of any warranty period to receive incentive. Requires a heat load calculation to be submitted clearly delineating design temperature used for analysis, resulting heat loss, and equipment heating capacity for the home.

If equipped with backup electric heat, home must be on load control or demand billing per local utility offerings.



Manager's **Comments**

by Roger Johanneck



May is National Electrical Safety Month

Since about first grade, May has been a favorite month of mine. The month of May ushered in the end of another school year and the beginning of summer with all of its possibilities, freedom and fun. The start of another fishing season also adds to my fondness for the month of May. May is also a popular month to raise awareness and promote important causes like Electrical Safety.

I thought that the electric industry had long ago put in a reservation for the month of May to claim it as theirs for promoting electrical safety. Contrary to fishing laws regulating the number of fish you can keep, there appears to be no limits placed on the number of ideals you can promote in a given month. A brief look on the internet shows there are quite a few organizations that want to promote something that claim May as their month, for example: National Military Appreciation Month, National Lupus Awareness Month, National Building Safety Month, Smile Month, Bike Month, Foster Care Month and a host of others all claim May as their month.

So why do we in the electric business (2019001.07 Bryan L. Olson) dedicate the month of May and devote time and resources to promote electrical safety? Perhaps the answer is too obvious, but I will repeat it anyways; so no one gets hurt.

As I think about electrical safety, I recall a safety lesson learned early in life from my instructor in a firearms safety training course. The instructor, standing in front of the classroom full of 12 year olds while holding a rifle stated; "A gun is one of the safest things a person can own." The lesson "never point a gun at anyone" was explained by the safety instructor telling us he could fire the gun in a million different directions in this classroom full of students and no one would get hurt.

Our daily life around and use of electricity, to me, is a lot like the lesson I learned in firearms safety training. If we are not careful with electricity it has the power to hurt, sometimes fatally. We can however, use electricity safely in an endless number of ways. When we don't take short cuts in how we use it, work with it or around it, no one

Even though May is the time set aside nationally to bring electrical safety awareness to the forefront, we know that electrical safety is something to be practiced always, not just each May.

At Red Lake Electric Cooperative we place a high priority on electrical safety by having our employees participate in regular safety training sessions through our statewide association, the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), through an independent safety consultant, Minnesota Safety and through continuing education courses. These keep our employees properly trained to do the work they are called on to do, safely.

Part of each training session covers a review of accidents or near misses that have happened in our industry. The old adage, "learn from the mistakes of others", certainly applies with the practice of doing an accident review. Unfortunately, it seems the instructors continue to find new incidents to review. These serve as another reminder as to why we dedicate the month of May to electrical safety and the continuation of our electrical safety program for our employees. We need to keep safety on the forefront of our decision making so that it becomes a part of our culture at home, at work and at play.

I thought it would be helpful if I did an accident review with you. I will share some insurance claim examples of public electric contacts with power lines, provided by our an average of 400 electrocutions in

• Contact by roofer with ladder – burns to hand and feet.

• Man was unloading a 20 foot piece of rebar from a truck and made contact with overhead power line – FATALITY.

• Residential painting contractor's ladder fell into overhead line -

 Single vehicle accident where claimant's vehicle left roadway and struck insured's utility pole. Driver exited vehicle and made contact with the energized line - minor injuries.

• Raised irrigation pipe into overhead line - FATALITY.

• Farmer came in contact with overhead line - FATALITY.

• Foreman made contact with and underground line while boring a pipeline - FATALITY

All of the incidents listed above, like most electrical accidents, could have been avoided. This is both a sad and comforting fact; sad in the sense of that they didn't need to happen, comforting in the sense that by thinking safety, electrical accidents are avoidable, not inevitable. As our insurer, FREI aptly states: "Statistics on public contact related deaths and injuries are simply inadequate to describe the impact that electrical accidents have on people, their families, friends, and communities."

I will leave you with two points to remember here: there is a limit on walleyes, but there is no limit on the attention that electrical safety deserves; remember to practice electrical safety - always.



Report from the Office

by Shirley Bregier

I think spring is finally here! It is nice to see the sun shining, the farmers in the fields planting their crop, and boats and campers being moved to the favorite fishing spot. **Budget Billing**

It's that time of the year when we start the new budget bill term. For those of you on budget billing already, remember that your new budget amount for the upcoming 12

months will reflect the rate increase

that recently went into effect. If you aren't already enrolled in budget billing and have a hard time budgeting your electric bill payments around what the weather may or may not be doing, you may be the person that is interested in budget billing.

Red Lake Electric offers our residential customers a service to even out (5823005.03 Daniel Page) your electric bills for the year, sparing you from unpredictable bills that are caused from seasonal variations. Budget billing does not reduce your energy expense, it simply averages your energy expense over a 12-month period.

To qualify for budget billing, you must have been a customer for the past 12 months and your account needs to be current. Your usage for the previous 12 months will be averaged and calculated based on the current electric rate to get your monthly budget payment.

Red Lake Electric starts the budget billing program in May of each year so throughout the summer you start building a credit balance. That way when the larger bills arrive with the cold next winter, you have an amount built up to help even out the larger bills.

• If working in damp locations,

inspect electrical cords and equip-

ment to ensure they are in good

condition; use a ground fault circuit

Always use caution when

We'll review your budget plan every six months to compare your actual energy usage costs to your budget amount. If there's a significant difference, we'll adjust your monthly budget amount up or down accordingly.

Your monthly electric bill will continue to show your actual usage as (2824004.04 David Helm) well as your budget amount to allow you to also monitor your electric bill. If at any time you notice a significant difference in the amount you are paying and your actual balance owing, you can call or e-mail the office to have us look at your account information and reevaluate your budget amount. Keep in mind that we normally want you to build up a credit over the summer months to help pay for the higher electric bills during the winter months.

Web Site

Red Lake Electric's web site has been updated! The look of www.redlakeelectric.com hasn't changed drastically. What has

changed is the ease of navigating around the site. The drop down menus make it easier to make your selection. A search engine has been added so you will be able to search our site to help find information easier. The biggest change for RLEC is the ease to maintain the site so we will be able to keep you better informed.

If there is something you would like to see on our site or a link you would like added, please let me know. For those that haven't used our site yet, give it a try. We will be adding new features as time allows so continue to check us out.

As always, if you have a comment or concern you can either email us at redlake@minnkota.com or call our billing office at 218-253-2168 or 1-800-245-6068. Till next time, enjoy the nice weather and whether it be farming, fishing, biking or whatever you like to do outdoors - Remember SAFETY FIRST!

Closed Memorial Day In respectful remembrance, Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarter facilities will be closed Monday, May 30 in observance of Memorial Day. In case of an electrical outage or emergency, dial the after-hour phone number 218-253-2200. May we all remember those who have gone before us, especially those who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

insurer, Federated Rural Electric to be insulated. Insurance (FREI). Annually there is

 Call Red Lake Electric Cooperative immediately to report fallen

electrical wires. • If you are working at heights

(on a roof top) or moving long objects (grain elevator), survey the area before starting work for the presence of overhead wires.

your vehicle and the vehicle stalls, do not leave your vehicle. Warn



Electrical safety tips from the U.S. Department of Labor people not to touch your vehicle or

the wire.

interrupter (GFCI)

working near electricity.

• Assume that all overhead wires are energized at lethal voltages. Never assume that a wire is safe to touch, even if it is down or appears

• If an overhead wire falls across



Mission Statement • If an overhead wire falls across your vehicle while you are driving, stay in your vehicle and continue to It is the mission of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to enhance the drive away from the line. quality of life for people of our service area by consistently providing

WE PROUDLY PRESENT TO YOU

The Red Lake Electric Cooperative

quality electric service and other valued services while holding our

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

employees, our community and our environment in high regard.

Customer Service Guarantee



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

ROGER JOHANNECK General Manager

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

(USPS 663-400)

Published monthly by the Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., 412 International Drive SW, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750-0430, in the interest of its members and others. Periodical Postage Paid at the U. S. Post Office in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750. POSTMAS-TER, SEND ADDRESS CHANGES to Volts & Jolts, c/o Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., P. O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750-0430. E-mail: redlake@minnkota.com

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

UFF	ICERS AND DIRECTORS
PRESIDENT	Bonnie Christians
VICE PRESIDENT	Robert Finstad
SECRETARY-TREAS	URER
DIRECTORS	
	Steven Linder, Peter Mosbeck,
	Colette Kujava, Randy Versdahl, Stacy Blawa
Subscription Rate .	\$2.50 per year

NOTICE

Hidden within the text of the articles on pages 1, 2, 3 and the back page 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 as such (99-99-99-999-99 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.

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 \$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

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 \$24 to \$31 month Over 500 KWH (April-Dec.) 8.4¢ Kwh Over 500 KWH (Jan.-Mar.)9.1¢ Kwh Multiphase users add \$20/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, \$7/month, high pressure sodium, \$8/month, mercury vapor; water heater flat credit, \$7/month (on January-April billing); off-peak equipment charge, \$5/month per heat meter; off-peak electric heat rate, 4.7¢/kWh long-term control, 7¢/kWh short-term control.

Recipe corner

Salad with Vinaigrette Dressing

- 3/4 c. vegetable oil
- 1/4 c. white wine vinegar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. sugar

1 tsp. dry mustard

- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 3 to 4 drops hot pepper sauce Salad greens

Bell peppers, mushrooms, tomatoes and/or other vegetables of your

In a jar with a tight-fitting lid, combine the first seven ingredients and shake well. Toss salad greens and vegetables in a large bowl or arrange on individual salad plates. Serve with dressing. Yield: 1 cup dressing.

Crunchy Chicken Salad

- 4 c. shredded cooked chicken
- 2 c. shredded lettuce
- 1 c. juliened carrots
- 1 c. juliened cucumber
- 2/3 c. green onion strips (2-inch pieces)
- 1 c. fresh bean sprouts Dressing:
- 2 tbsp. peanut or vegetable oil
- 2 tbsp. lemon juice
- 2 tbsp. sesame seeds, toasted
- 1-1/2 tsp. soy sauce
- 1/2 tsp. salt, optional
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1/4 tsp. dry mustard
- Hot pepper sauce to taste

In a large salad bowl, toss the chicken, lettuce, carrots, cucumber, green onion and bean sprouts. Refrigerate. In a small bowl, combine dressing ingredients. Refrigerate. Just before serving, pour dressinig over salad and toss gently. Serve with breadsticks. Yield: 10 servings.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Operating Report

MONTHLY COMPARISON

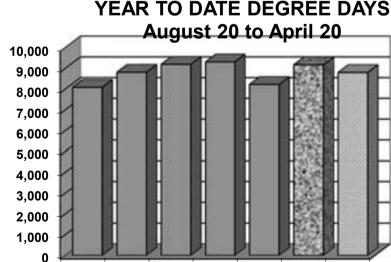
	MARCH	MARCH	
	2010	2011	
Total Revenue	1,043,098	\$ 1,185,667	
Total Margins\$	148,639	\$ 167,381	
Cost of Power	645,743	\$ 781,073	
KWH's Purchased	2,434,396	14,674,516	
Capital Credits Paid to Estates\$	0	\$ 0	

YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

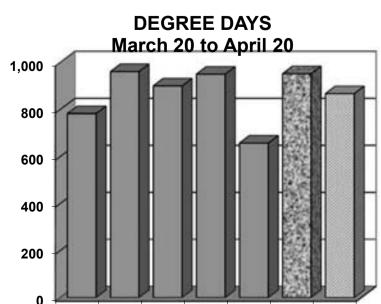
M	IARCH	MARCH
	2010	2011
Total Revenue \$ 3,65	53,675 \$	3,980,431
Total Margins\$ 63	37,455 \$	661,158
Cost of Power \$ 2,24	18,600 \$	2,554,348
KWH's Purchased	58,048	50,111,445
New Service Connections	1	3
Customers Served	5,196	5,193
Capital Credits Paid to Estates\$ 1	15,609 \$	12,773
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,325	2,324
Underground	235	239
-		

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.



05-06 06-07 07-08 08-09 09-10 10-11 Avg



05-06 06-07 07-08 08-09 09-10 10-11 Avg

Rhubarb Berry Delight

- 4 c. diced rhubarb
- 2 c. fresh or frozen strawberries 1-1/2 c. sugar, divided
- 1 pkg. (6 oz.) raspberry-flavored gelatin
- 2 c. boiling water
- 1 c. milk 1 envelope unflavored gelatin
- 1/4 c. cold water
- 1-1/2 tsp. vanilla extract 2 c. (16 oz.) sour cream

In a saucepan, cook rhubarb, strawberries and 1 cup sugar until fruit is tender. In a large bowl, dissolve raspberry gelatin in boiling water. Stir in fruit; set aside. In another pan, heat milk and remaining sugar over low heat until sugar is dissolved. Meanwhile, soften unflavored gelatin in cold water. Add to hot milk mixture and stir until gelatin dissolves. Remove from the heat; add vanilla. Cool to lukewarm; blend in sour cream. Set aside at room temperature. Pour a third of the fruit mixture into a 3-quart bowl; chill until almost set. Spoon a third of the sour cream mixture over fruit; chill until almost set. Repeat layers twice, chilling between layers if necessary. Refrigerate until firm, at least 3 hours. Yield: 12 servings.

Fried Squash Blossoms

- 1/2 c. all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/4 tsp. garlic salt 1/4 tsp. ground cumin
- 1 egg
- 1/2 c. milk
- 1 tbsp. vegetable oil
- Additional oil for frying
- 12 large freshly picked squash blossoms

In a medium bowl, combine flour, baking powder, garlic salt and cumin. In another bowl, beat egg, milk and oil; add to dry ingredients and stir until smooth. In a skillet, heat 2 inches of oil to 375 degrees. Dip blossoms into batter and fry in oil a few at a time until crisp. Drain on paper towels. Keep warm until serving. Yield: 4 servings.

Wilted Lettuce Salad

- 1 bunch leaf lettuce, torn
- 6 to 8 radishes, thinly sliced 4 to 6 green onions with tops, thinly sliced
- Dressing:
- 4 to 5 bacon strips
- 2 tbsp. red wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

Toss lettuce, radishes and onion in a large salad bowl; set aside. In a skillet, cook bacon until crisp. Remove to paper towels to drain. To the hot drippings, add vinegar, lemon juice, sugar and pepper; stir well. Immediately pour dressing over salad; toss gently. Crumble the bacon and sprinkle on top. Yield: 6 to 8 servings.

Tropical Chicken Salad

- 2 c. cubed cooked chicken
- 1 c. chopped celery 1 c. mayonaise
- 1/2 to 1 tsp. curry powder
- 1 can (20 oz.) chunk pineapple, drained
- 2 large firm bananas, sliced
- 1 can (11 oz.) mandarin oranges, drained
- 1/2 c. flaked coconut
- Salad greens, optional
- 3/4 c. salted peanuts or cashew halves

Place chicken and celery in a large bowl. Combine mayonnaise and curry powder; add to chicken mixture and mix well. Cover and chill for at least 30 minutes. Before serving, add the pineapple, bananas, oranges and coconut; toss gently. Serve on salad greens if desired. Sprinkle with nuts. Yield: 4 to 6 servings.

The economic consequences of good intentions



by Mark Glaess, Manager Minnesota Rural Electric Association

Not long ago, San Francisco officials forced "low-flow" toilets on the populace to save water. However, these water-saving devices are not producing sufficient surge with each flush to keep the solid waste pipes under the streets of San Francisco from becoming constipated. To address this problem, the city just ordered \$13 million worth of Clorox to pour down the drains to kill the smell. This is what's known as the "law of unintended consequences" or better yet, "Murphy's Law," which says: "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong.

There is yet another related law called "The Law of Good Intentions." This is how that works:

In 2007, the Minnesota legislature promoted renewable energy and conservation mandates; all great laws of very good intentions. Four years later every Minnesotan has higher energy rates as a result. We now know that the wind mandate has cost this state close to \$100 million because that breeze occurs when it is least needed. Those costs will only get worse as the renewable mandate increases until we hit 25 percent by 2025. The mandate to reduce energy consumption by 1.5 annually cost 20 cents to save 11 cents. Mandating conservation when utilities are generating more electricity than the market needs makes that conservation less and less cost-effective.

Wind and solar require significant fossil fuel-based backup power sources to accommodate variability in the availability of

wind and sun for power conversion. A recent study by the Beacon Hill Institute in Boston and Robert Brvce (author of "Power Hungry") found that wind power actually increases pollution and greenhouse gas emissions due to these required backup systems. Firms with high electricity usage could move their production, and emissions, out of Minnesota to locations with lower electricity prices and less uneconomic regulatory regimes. Exporting energy production and jobs will not reduce global emissions, but rather send production, jobs and capital investment outside the state, or even outside the country where net global emissions would almost surely be increased.

It is, or should be, a given that electric cooperatives are the nation's leaders in energy conservation and reducing pollutants. Since 1979, co-ops have offered their members the option for the co-op to "control" their water heaters and electric heating systems. For that you see portions of your electric

bill reduced by 40-50 percent. By controlling electric loads, the coops collectively have shelved the need to build a 500 MW power plant. That has saved the state's cooperative customers over \$1 bil-

Not everyone has been disadvantaged however. The San Francisco-based Energy Foundation has provided millions of dollars to Minnesota's environmental groups like the Izaak Walton League, Fresh Energy and the Blue-Green Alliance to oppose clean coal-powered generation in favor of increasingly expensive energy efficiency and cost-prohibitive renewable energy laws. So you could say that while the average Minnesotan has seen their electric rate increase because of these laws of good intentions, the environmental community that employs some 70 lobbyists in St. Paul have made out quite well.

Top dairy herds for March DHIA

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

Name	% in	lbs.		lbs.		lbs.
Cows	milk	milk	test	fat	protein	protein
Northstar Dairy LLC 3X1108	92	73	3.9	2.9	3.1	2.3
Wayra Dairy 3X280	90	73	3.6	2.6	2.9	2.1
Spring Prairie Colony	86	70	3.9	2.7	3.0	2.1
Walter Bros Farm	86	69	3.4	2.4	3.1	2.1
Beyer Bros Farm72	97	65	3.6	2.4	3.1	2.0
Amundson Dairy65	92	65	4.0	2.6	3.2	2.1
Robert & Terri Dahlen57	82	62	3.4	2.1	2.9	1.8
CB Farms LLC	85	60	3.4	2.1	2.9	1.8
Mark Gladen86	85	58	3.3	1.9	3.0	1.7
Danny Grunhovd	88	50	3.5	1.7	3.1	1.5

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.





Hwy. 1 & 59 W. • Thief River Falls FAX: (218) 681-8420 • 1-800-826-5403

OFFER ENDS JUNE 30TH HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 9-5:30 · Sat. 9-1 DEFER ENDS JUNE 30TH TIQUIS; MUII. • FII. 9-3;3U * 3dl. 9-1

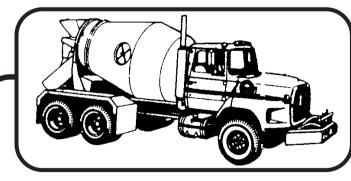
NONDA.COM MULTI-PURPOSE UTILITY VEHICLES CAN BE HAZARDOUS TO OPERATE. FOR YOUR SAFETY, BE
RESPONSIBLE. ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET, EYE PROTECTION AND APPROPRIATE CLOTHING. ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEAT
BELT, AND KEEP THE SIDE NETS AND DOORS CLOSED. AVOID EXCESSIVE SPEEDS, AND BE CAREFUL ON DIFFICULT
TERRAIN. ALL MUV DRIVERS SHOULD WATCH THE SAFETY VIDEO *MULTIPURPOSE UTILITY VEHICLES: A GUIDE TO
SAFE OPERATION *AND READ THE OWNER'S MANUAL BEFORE OPERATING THE VEHICLE. NEVER DRIVE UNDER THE
INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL, ON PUBLIC ROADS OR WITH MORE THAN ONE PASSENGER. BIG RED IS ONLY FOR
DRIVERS 16 YEARS AND OLDER. DRIVER AND PASSENGER MUST BE TALL ENOUGH FOR SEAT BELT TO FIT PROPERLY
AND TO BRACE THEMSELVES WITH BOTH FEET FIRMLY ON THE FLOOR. PASSENGER MUST BE ABLE TO GRASP THE
HAND HOLD WITH THE SEAT BELT ON AND BOTH FEET ON THE FLOOR. RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT WHEN DRIVING.

*3.99% Fixed APR financing available for customers who qualify for super preferred credit tier for up to 60 months
through Honda Financial Services. Payment example: 60 monthly payments of \$18.41 for each \$1,000 financed.
Finance offer good on new and unregistered Big Red models. Not all buyers may qualify. Higher rates apply
for buyers with ' Offer ends 6/30/11. Check with participating Honda Dealers for complete
details. Big Red* is a trademark of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. @2011 American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (04/11) 11-1073

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. hese 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



DAVIDSON **READY MIX & CONSTRUCTION**

- Concrete
- Concrete Blocks
- Rebar
 - Rock
- Gravel Backhoe and **Dozer Service**
- Septic Tanks



CALL (218) 449-4865 or (218) 681-7033

1325 Greenwoood St. W Thief River Falls www.davidsonconstruction.com

Farmers Union Oil Company

Thief River Falls



- Fertilizer
- Petroleum products
- Town and country deliveries
- Tires, batteries, accessories
- Farm supplies

WILCOX PLUMBING AND HEATING, Inc.

RED LAKE FALLŚ Plumbing/Heating/Air conditioning

BILL H. MOSER, Master Plumber License No. 1770PM BILL J. MOSER, Master Plumber License No. 6039PM Refrigerant Certified No. CFR089400285



- In-floor heating
- Pressure systems
- Electric heat pumps

FREE ESTIMATES COMPLETE SALES AND SERVICE

218-253-4347

Gas furnaces

The Head-Quarters Hair and **Tanning Salon**

HAIRSTYLING FOR MEN AND WOMEN

PARK PLACE MALL RED LAKE FALLS, MINNESOTA

218 253-4223





- Operating loans
- · Vehicle loans
- · Farm real estate loans
- Consumer loans

"We appreciate your business." 218-796-5157

Fax 218-796-5158 tim.hagl@ssboklee.com





All-Risk Crop Insurance Crop/Hail Coverage

218-523-5861

"THE FARMERS' HELPING HAND"

Dave Miller

Agency

DAVE MILLER, AGENT

RURAL ROUTE 1

VIKING, MINNESOTA 56760

VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Westend Garden Center in third year of growth

Pam and Doug Dallmann have enjoyed creating planting gardens at their home near Thief River Falls for many years. "Doug does the building and helps with the planting," commented Pam about her husband. "If it weren't a joint effort, we wouldn't be able to do it.'

This activity, among many others that couple embarks upon, helps to create a beautiful yard that is the enjoyment of visitors who are given the garden tour at the Dallmann home. The array of plants and decorations also enhances the atmosphere around the church they moved to the property and renovated a couple years back. The structure and grounds have been used for the occasional wedding cele-

About three years ago, Pam had the idea of doing more with plants and providing an opportunity for others to enjoy one of her favorite pastimes. A site was cleared in the parking lot area of Universal Screenprint on Highway 59 north in Thief River Falls. Universal Screenprint is a commercial screen printing and graphics company started by the Dallmann's almost 25 years ago.

Upon the cleared site, a greenhouse was erected and soon truckloads of annual and perennial plants arrived to be sorted, tagged and arranged in the greenhouses for sale to the general public. With room needed for potting

and other greenhouse work, along with the large inventory of plants, it was determined that operations in year two would require the addition of another greenhouse.

One greenhouse is used for annuals and the



Pam Dallmann, owner of Westend Garden Center of Thief River Falls, stands in the annual plant greenhouse, one of two greenhouses and a nursery open for business on Highway 59 north.

other for perennials, with a little overflow each

Each greenhouse is regulated by large vents that close thermostatically. Electric heaters keep the temperature stable while the vents purge the

excess. The greenhouses are attractively finished and are adorned with graphics and signage from Universal Screenprint making the two entities natural partners.

Each year, Pam adds more of the popular varieties of plants and gives advice on where to plant and how to maintain the greenery. This year, the Dallmann's have added a fenced area, a tree and shrub nursery complete with a patio for customers to sit a spell while contemplating which plants to buy.

On occasion, Pam has had customers bring in their large decorator pots for new plantings. She picks the plants and arranges them to suit the customers needs and color preferences.

She can order in what she doesn't have or for special requests and enjoys catering to the customers needs. With other irons in the fire, Pam employs up to four part-time workers to assist with potting and helping the patrons every day of the week during the busy season.

A wide variety of flowering plants, succulents, grasses and bog plants can be found at Westend Gardens and now, with the addition of trees and shrubs, it has become a destination for any level of gardener to secure the types of plants they

A lot of plant and planting knowledge acquired over the years is energetically imparted to customers in order to help them be successful with the plants and gardening. "Placement, location, and proper care are key," added Pam.

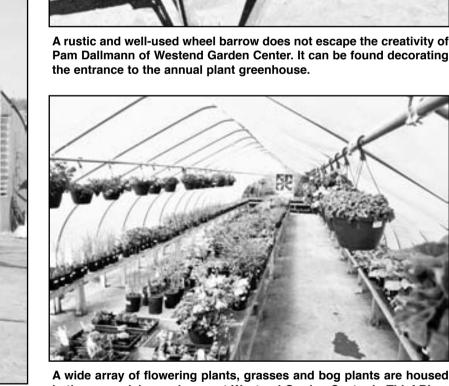
When asked about her involvement in garden plants and now trees and shrubs and working with customers, Pam simply stated, "I enjoy it. I really do enjoy it."



The tree and shrub nursery is the latest addition to the Westend Garden Center owned and operated by Pam Dallmann of Thief River Falls.



A rustic and well-used wheel barrow does not escape the creativity of Pam Dallmann of Westend Garden Center. It can be found decorating the entrance to the annual plant greenhouse.



in the perennial greenhouse at Westend Garden Center in Thief River



Westend Garden Center

Bray-Gentilly Mutual Insurance Co.

Locally Owned and Operated Serving Policyholders Since 1900

218-683-3200

2017 Hwy. 59 SE • P.O. Box 592 Thief River Falls, MN 56701

INSURANCE FOR FARMS, HOMES AND PERSONAL **PROPERTY**

TELEPHONE US FOR AN **AGENT NEAR YOU!**

THIS SPACE **FOR RENT** 253-2594

Kilen's Custom Cleaners

- Commercial
- Residential
- Custodial

Specializing in Water, Fire & Soot Restoration

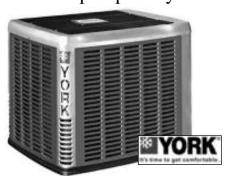
Jordan Kilen - Owner (218) 686-2591 www.kilencustom.com

– Free Estimates ——

"Achieving excellence one customer at a time"

Want to cut your heating cost by up to 50%?

Buy a YORK Affinity heat pump today!



GROVE MECHANICAL, INC.

Your hometown heating & air conditioning team! Serving Crookston and the surrounding communities for 30 years. (218) 281-3863

OFFICE PHONE 253-2168

OUTAGE PHONE 253-2200

1-800-245-6068



One of the Minnkota Power Systems

A single-phase line along County Road 13 in Parnell Township northeast of Crookston was recently upgraded to a three-phase line for a new grain bin/dryer service.

Three miles of overhead line were upgraded and one mile of underground will be installed to provide the three-phase service.

This will be the third consecutive construction season for Red Lake Electric Cooperative to build or rebuild lines for new or larger grain handling services.



Brett Knott, apprentice lineman, attaches a crossarm to an existing single-phase pole. The poles along County Road 13 in Parnell Township were all replaced four years ago and are of sufficient height to accomodate a three-phase line.



May 2011

Above: A Red Lake Electric construction crew strings wire for the three-phase line upgrade along County Road 13 northeast of Crookston. A track dozer was used to pull trucks through the wet fields.

Right: Red Lake Electric lineman work to "tie-in" the wires for the three-phase line upgrade.

Surge protection: critical for sensitive electronics

Computers and other electronic equipment found in nearly every home and business today are quite susceptible to sags and surges in voltage and current. They may show up as minor voltage spikes, short power interruptions or current distortions that are difficult to find, even if you know where to look. Dealing with power quality concerns requires an understanding of surge protection equipment and a plan to protect sensitive electronic devices.

Lightning strikes to homes or nearby locations are one primary cause of damage to delicate electronic equipment. Other causes like voltage spikes and multiple grounding paths can also create problems. Even minor surges can

create a malfunction that requires the device to reset or possibly even cause permanent damage.

The surge protection system outlined in this article could apply to nearly any residential or commercial setting, as well as agricultural

A properly installed transient surge suppression system includes multiple levels of protection. Beginning at the site of the utility service entrance, protection is provided through each of the building's service panels, subpanels and individual circuits that supply electricity to delicate equipment. Each level of protection is designed to remove a portion of the surge not eliminated by the preceding level.

The last level of protection is

provided at the individual circuit. This is where the lowest level of harmful disturbances will be filtered out. An outlet strip with a quality surge suppressor provides this protection.

In practice, many buildings won't need all the levels of protection. But providing protection only at the circuit level is not sufficient to guard against high-energy transient surges.

Should the building contain critical electronics that are affected by any change in current or voltage levels, the best is to provide protection at all levels.

As a minimum level of protection, experts recommend the following components be included in any surge protection system:

• Lightning arrestor on the main service pole (this is already provided by RLEC).

• Adequate grounding for service entrance and main service pole. • Surge suppressor for the

building electrical service panel. • Secondary arrestor for the

individual circuit to which the electronic equipment is attached.

To learn more contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative or your local electrician. Remember, no amount of surge protection will guarantee absolute reliability. But by understanding the causes of power quality problems and the components needed in a well-designed protection system, you will be able to avoid most costly losses in equip-

Surge protection equipment available at Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Meter-base Surge Suppressor unit (owned, installed and maintained by RLEC)\$3.95/month 3 AC Plugstrip with Coax and Phone Line Protection (this is an individual circuit suppressor) \$49 2 AC Wall Mount Suppressors with Phone Line Protection (this unit mounts on a wall outlet) \$39

From the Mail Bag

Dear RLEC:

Just wanted to let you know how much we appreciate your quick response to our call when we were out of power.

We were thankful to be able to get a hold of you so easily after hours, and for the after hours work-

Thank you so much for all your

Gary and Jan Leader Newfolden

Dear RLEC:

Thank you very much for the \$50 gift of credit on the electric

> **Judy Sorter** Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

Thank you so much for the beautiful wood shelf that I won at the annual meeting.

Norman Stenvik Goodridge

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for the flashlight I won at the annual meeting.

Gloria Rakke Newfolden

Dear RLEC:

Just a word of appreciation for the waffle iron that I won at the annual meeting. It works great. Wally Reierson

Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

On behalf of the clients of Sunview Dining Center in Red Lake Falls, I want to thank you for your donation of milk that was left after the annual meeting. All donations are appreciated and help with our food costs.

Sincerely, **Margaret Schindler Dining Manager**

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for the grant you gave to the Strandquist Food Shelf to buy food.

Gula Stromgren **Food Shelf Director**

Dear RLE Trust:

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Nutrition Education Program/4-H After School Programs. These funds have allowed me to purchase excercise and healthy eating incentives. The students love the jump ropes.

Community Nutrition Educator, University of Minnesota Extension

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for helping us with providing wonderful door prizes for the many families who attended our annual Block Party health fair. **ECFE and HeadStart**

Oklee/Plummer

Dear RLE Operation Round-Up: Thanks for helping us provide prizes to the families that attended

our annual Family Fair in Red Lake

Falls. Each year we try to purchase items that would be useful and fun for the families to use at home.

Margaret and Wanda Red Lake Falls ECFE

Dear RLEC: Thank you for the donation toward the Marshall County Cen-

tral After Prom Party. **MCC** students

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for your donation to out RLCC Post Prom Party. We had a great time. Thanks for helping make it all possible.

RLCC students

Dear RLEC:

Thank you so much for all of the support in helping to make the 2011 Win-E-Mac After Prom Party a success. Many great memories have been made.

Win-E-Mac students

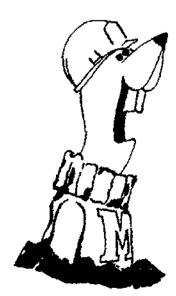
Dear RLEC:

We would like to thank you for your generous donation to the Goodridge Post Prom Party. Your contribution helped make the 2011 Post Prom Party a huge success. We all had a wonderful time.

Goodridge students

Call Before You Dig

With the arrival of spring, many people have plans for excavating and planting projects. To ensure your safety and the safety of others, before digging or planting, call Gopher State One Call, 1-800-252-1166.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative members and area contractors are reminded, if you are planning to dig deeper than one foot, you must call Gopher State One Call it's the law!

A call to Gopher State will get all utility underground lines and pipes located and marked, free of charge, within 48 hours.

Don't take chances – mistakes cost lives.

1-800-252-1166

BEFORE YOU DIG.



Brett Knott places an insulated blanket over a lightning arrestor and epoxilator as he prepares to work on the three-phase pole. Covering this phase helps protect him from different potentials as he will be working on one of the other phases.



A line construction crew works on a new three-phase breaker pole and de-frames the old single-phase pole.

Burning garbage in the backyard

By Kayla Bromelkamp, Minn. Pollution Control Agency

The answer is that garbage has changed in the last 50 years. Today's garbage contains plastics and other synthetics that release a hazardous mixture of carcinogens and other toxics (such as lead, mercury, and arsenic) when burned.

Backyard garbage burning, whether done in a traditional burn barrel, wood stove, or fire-pit, is far more harmful to our health and our environment than previously thought. Even seemingly harmless items, like paper, mail, packaging, and cardboard boxes used for frozen pizzas and vegetables, can give off toxic emissions.

This pollution not only increases the health risk to those exposed to the smoke, which can increase the risk of heart disease and cause rashes, nausea, and headaches, but also produces toxic substances, including dioxin, a cancer-causing pollutant.

The U.S. EPA has determined that one burn barrel (from an average family of four) can produce as much or more dioxin as a full-scale municipal waste incinerator burning 200 tons per day. Backyard

garbage burning is now the single largest source of uncontrolled airborne dioxin emissions in the United States; more than all other known sources combined. In addition, backyard garbage burning contributes to nearly half of all of the wildfires in Minnesota each year.

Regardless of whether or not it is legal or illegal, the most important thing to understand is the risks associated with backyard garbage burning and to change behavior. Most counties in Minnesota have set up comprehensive waste and recycling collection programs and drop-off sites to properly manage our garbage but there are still parts of the state that don't offer convenient options for all rural residents. That is why the MPCA is working with local units of government and other interested groups to close those gaps and educate people about the real dangers posed by backyard garbage burning.

For more information, including links to local waste-hauling services, drop sites, and recycling options, go to

http://www.pca.state.mn.us/bu rnbarrel.



Casey Thronson, left, lineman, and Brett Knott work to complete the attachments on the three-phase breaker pole. A breaker isolates a section of line so if a fault occurs down-line it will open the breaker allowing electric service to remain for services up-line.

Agassiz Refuge Lost Bay Habitat Drive opens

Load your family in the car and head to Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge to experience the sights and sounds of spring that nature has to



offer. Observe up to 17 species of ducks that breed on the Refuge, take a close look at a bald eagle perched in her nest incubating eggs, or listen for the "winnowing" of Wilson's snipe as they descend from the sky in courtship display.

Visitors can also expect to hear the excited calls of the Franklin's gulls from their large nesting colony in Agassiz Pool or as small groups sail overhead on foraging flights, as well as the familiar honks of Canada geese, and various melodies coming from upland habitats as migrating songbirds arrive at the Refuge.

While a smorgasbord of birds is a given, lucky Refuge vistors get a glimpse of moose, bear, or wolves. There's never a dull moment in nature.

You can experience all this activity not only as you drive towards Refuge headquarters along

Unity Bank will match donations for the Red Lake Falls Education Endowment Foundation up to \$500.

C o u n t y
Highway 7,
but also
along the
Refuge's 4mile long
Lost Bay
H a b i t a t
Drive which
is now open.
T h e

H a b i t a t Drive offers new interpretive signage, including three sound stations where you can listen to pre-recorded narration about the Refuge's wildlife, habitat, and management activities, by tuning your car radio to 1610AM.

If you want to take in more of the fresh spring air, take a jaunt down one of the three hiking trails also available at the Refuge. Whether in your car or on foot, you won't be disappointed in the splendors of spring at Agassiz NWR.

The Refuge Headquarters is located on Marshall County Road 7 (290th Street NE), 12 miles north of Thief River Falls on Highway 32 and 11 miles east of Holt. A sign along Minnesota Highway 1, three miles east of Thief River Falls, also guides visitors to the Refuge.

For more information call the Refuge office at 218-449-4115, extension 203.

Top dairy herds for April DHIA

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

Name	% in	lbs.		lbs.		lbs.
Cows	milk	milk	test	fat	protein	protein
Kara-Kesh Holsteins5	100	78	3.4	2.7	2.8	2.2
Northstar Dairy LLC 1105	91	76	3.5	2.7	3.1	2.4
Wayra Dairy 3X282	91	75	3.4	2.5	2.9	2.2
Spring Prairie Colony	87	74	3.9	2.9	3.0	2.2
Walter Bros Farm	87	70	3.5	2.5	3.0	2.1
Amundson Dairy66	89	68	3.7	2.5	3.1	2.1
Robert & Terri Dahlen55	84	61	3.4	2.1	3.0	1.8
BLY Dairy	89	60	4.0	2.4	3.2	1.9
CB Farms LLC	85	59	3.4	2.0	3.0	1.8
Beyer Bros Farm	89	58	3.6	2.1	3.1	1.8

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.





Your key to buy, sell or trade anything is the

CLASSIFIEDS

The members are invited to use this FREE WANT AD service.

If you have anything to trade or sell, just drop a card to Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

Real Estate

House For Sale



602 Falls Ave. SW Red Lake Falls

Big Yard • In Town 4 Bedrooms • 2 Bathrooms 2-Car Detached Garage Central Air

Call 218-637-0081 after 6 p.m.

DON'S MACHINE SHOP ASE CERTIFIED REBUILDERS ALL GAS AND DIESEL ENGINES Automotive •Industrial

•Ford 7.3 Diesel

Powerstrok

\$4,200

Marine •Agricultural •GM 350 \$1,315 - \$1,419 High Performance •GM 6.5 Diesel with new block \$5,330 Vintage Auto Heavy Duty Diesel CALL FOR ESTIMATE! INSTALLATION AVAILABLE FOSSTON, MN

218-435-6379 or 1-800-448-1518

Late Model Auto Parts

-National Parts Locator-Toll Free 1-888-560-5321

Bus: 218-964-5321

WE BUY PARTS CARS! 20 Bakers St., St. Hilaire, MN Jeff Brouse & Brian Bugge, Owners

B & B Auto Recycling, Inc.

KM Transmission And Repair

Dependability • Honesty

Fair Prices

Its all just that simple. Keith Moen Mon. - Fri. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Sat. by appointment

(218) 681-4250 616 Davis Ave. N, Thief River Falls



105 Main Ave, Red Lake Falls 253-2594

Miscellany

THE GAZETTE NOW CARRIES Quarter-fold-size envelopes for greeting computer-generated cards. The Gazette in Red Lake Falls, 253-2594.

COLOR COPIES - Now available at the Gazette in Red Lake Falls, 253-2594.

PRINTING - Check with the Gazette for all your printing needs. No job is too big or too small. The Gazette, 253-2594, Red Lake Falls,

PAPERCLIP SALE – Box of 100 paperclips for 50¢ each or \$3 for a package of 10 boxes. The Gazette in Red Lake Falls, 253-2594.





Licensed • Bonded • Insured FREE ESTIMATES

20061 Center St E Thief River Falls, MN 56701 (218) 681-3879 (218) 686-4475

Roll-Off Boxes

Available

We Buy

Scrap

Iron

and

Metals

Winter Hours:

7:30 - 4:30 Monday-Friday





We Sell Welding Supplies

We Sell ™ New Steel -Structural and Sheet

EVANS Scrap & Steel, Inc.

218-681-3488 • Toll Free 1-800-906-3488 13203 190th St. N.E. • Thief River Falls, MN

For sale

FOR SALE - One credenza medium oak 42-inch by 21-inch, two drawers \$55. One queen size water bed liner with heater \$25. Call 218-253-2771.

Burns Welding and Repair

- Skid-steer loader rental
- Farm machinery repair Custom cattle gates built to your needs
- Custom size hay feeders
- Portable welding
- Aluminum welding and tig welding

CALL SHOP 218-964-5444





HELP! HELP!

"My basement is wet! Who do I call?"

RADNIECKI'S

Classic Cleaner

Carpets ▼ Pet Stains

▼ Upholstery **◯** Odor Control □ Ceilings & Walls □ Air Duct Cleaning

⊠ Emergency Water & Smoke Damage

call: (218) 681-7679

And for all your cleaning needs call 218-681-7679



BRIAN SCHAFER 218-289-5430 **CELLULAR**

Greg

MIKE SCHAFER 218-289-5431 **CELLULAR**

16483 120th Avenue SW Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750 Office 218-253-2497

Red Lake Electric Cooperative

COMMERCIAL TRENCHING RESIDENTIAL FARM

Electrical

Shop: (218) 253-4123 Home: (218) 253-4127

KEN'S ELECTRIC, INC.

Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750 "We Service Our Work"

Contact Us For All Your Electrical Needs!

Allen Remick - Cell: (218) 689-0313 Jason Knott - Cell: (218) 289-5104



SUBSCRIBE TO GAZETTE

Save at least \$23 annually over the newsstand price!

To subscribe just clip and fill out this form and bring it to the Gazette office at 105 Main Avenue in Red Lake Falls or mail to: The Gazette, PO Box 370, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

THE GAZETTE SUBSCRIPTION RATES . . .

In Red Lake County, \$29 a year In Minnesota, \$35 a year Out of state, \$39 a year

Send the Gazette to . . . Enclosed is a check for \$_ NAME **ADDRESS**

STATE

The **Gazette** only Lake County

Want Ad Order Form Use this handy form to submit your want ads. PLEASE PRINT Mail or bring your ads to the RLEC office by the tenth of the month. Commercial ads are 10¢ per word with a minimum charge of \$4 per

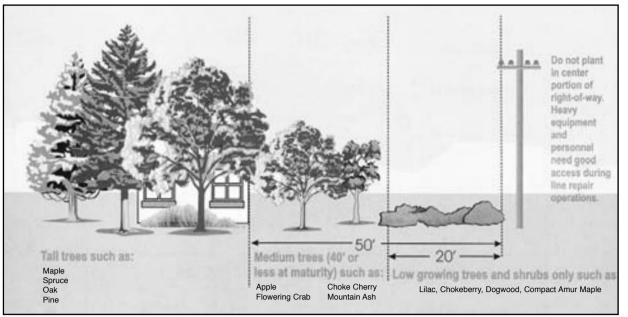
Member want ads are FREE. One want ad per member per month. Please PRIN

payment, if you prefer, or fax to 218-253-2630.

Your Name, Address and Phone Number. Mail with your power bill

VOLTS & JOLTS May 2011

Plant the right tree in the right place



When doing your landscaping this year, please be sure to plant trees at least 25 feet away from overhead power lines. Tall growing trees, such as maple and oak, should be located at least 50 feet from lines. Also remember to keep trees and shrubs at least eight feet away from underground lines and the front of pad mounted transformers and at least three feet from the

Selecting the right tree for the right place will allow trees to develop a more natural crown and will minimize costly maintenance necessary for power line clearance

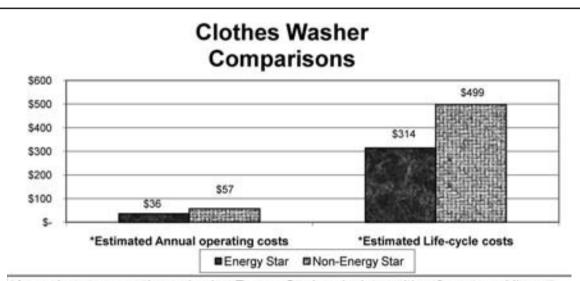
If you have questions about the types of trees to plant and the distances to maintain from power lines, contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative at 253-2168 or 200 245 6068

QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. will pay a \$50 rebate to any member who purchases an Energy Star clothes washer. Clothes washers have qualified for the Energy Star label since 1997. Clothes washers that have earned the Energy Star rating can be 37% more efficient than non-qualified models. If you are in the market for a new clothes washer consider an Energy Star model. Purchasing the most reasonable priced qualifying model

will yield you the quickest return on the additional investment for Energy Star.



*Annual costs are estimated using Energy Star's calculator with a 9 cent per kilowatt hour electric rate, washing four loads of clothes per week and heating water with an electric water heater. Annual costs exclude the initial purchase price. Life-cylce is considered to be 11 years. All costs, except purchase price, are discounted over the products' lifetime using a real discount rate of 4%.



Tragic farm accident underscores large equipment, power line dangers

Teach Learn Care TLC electrical safety campaign launched

"He would help any kid in the barn," said Brett Flach about his father, long time 4-H Club leader and champion livestock showman, who was willing to teach anyone his tricks of the trade in preparing animals for competitive judging. "He was a good man, and a lot of people loved him."

Jim Flach taught thousands on the livestock show circuit and as a Central Illinois farmer, was willing to help anyone anytime. In fact, he was operating a crop sprayer in a neighbor's field, when a sprayer arm contacted an overhead power line. Jim was severely injured when he climbed from the cab to the ground, and eventually died of his injuries.

Working with Safe Electricity's Teach Learn Care TLC campaign, his family is extending his teaching legacy by sharing the story of their tragic loss in hopes of preventing accidents. The video of their story can be seen at www.SafeElectricity.org

"You need to double check, triple check to see what is above you," said his widow Marilyn. Son Brett added, "Be conscious of your surroundings. You need to keep your eyes open and beware of overhead lines."

There are more than 400 electrical fatalities every year among workers, and electrocutions on farms are the fourth highest of any job classification, according to the National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH). Most of the electrical deaths investigated in a NIOSH survey could have been prevented.

Marilyn and her sons say the family was well aware of the dangers of the power lines that crossed



near their farmstead, and that Jim had told his sons to beware of the hazards. Brian Flach said if his father had remained in the cab of the sprayer, "probably everything would have turned out differently."

There were no witnesses to the accident, but when equipment contacts overhead power lines, the operator is almost always safest staying in the cab. When Jim stepped down from the sprayer, he became the path to ground for the deadly current.

The goal of this TLC campaign is two-fold: making farmers and other operators of large equipment aware of how to stay safe if contact is made with overhead power lines and even more so, the importance of avoiding contact altogether.

"(Jim) was surrounded by so much equipment in that cab it was difficult to see what was around him," Marilyn said. That's why Safe Electricity strongly urges the use of

a spotter or someone with a broader view when working near utility

Their son Brian said, "I lost my father to electricity and I talk about that with my wife and kids so they know the hazards of electricity." That philosophy is at the heart of the TLC campaign, aimed at getting people to learn what they need to about electrical safety and share it with others.

"We commend the Flach family for their commitment to preventing other tragic accidents by sharing their story and the painful lessons learned," said Safe Electricity's Molly Hall, program executive director. "We encourage everyone to visit www.SafeElectricity.org to see the video of Jim's story and learn all of the vital information operators must know when working with large equipment around power lines."

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.

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.

RLEC ELECTRIC ACCOUNT #
NAME (PRINT)
ADDRESS
TELEPHONE #
NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION
CHECKING ACCOUNT #
SAVINGS ACCOUNT #
SIGN HERE TO AUTHORIZE ————————————————————————————————————



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

Phone 218-253-2168
Toll-free 1-800-245-6068
Fax 218-253-2630
After-hour outage 218-253-2200
Office hours Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30
E-mail: redlake@minnkota.com
Web site www.redlakeelectric.com

P. O. Box 430 ● 412 International Drive SW ● Red Lake Falls, MN 56750-0430