



# 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. 8

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

MAY 2014

## Operation RoundUp grants total \$12,650

The Red Lake Electric Trust board met recently and awarded 14 grants to area non-profit and community organizations that totaled \$12,650.

Since its inception in 1993, 715 Operation RoundUp grants totaling \$433,000 have been gifted to area community organizations. The Red Lake Electric Trust receives money for grants from the Operation RoundUp program administered by the Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

Today, 93 percent of Red Lake Electric's members voluntarily "round-up" their monthly bill for the Operation RoundUp program.

Following are organizations awarded RoundUp funds to help the disadvantaged.

-Violence Intervention Project of Thief River Falls: \$1,000 for their Umbrella Tree Program that provides supervised child visitations.

-Strandquist Area Food Shelf: \$500 to help buy food for the food shelf.

Four area emergency service providers were given grants.

-Plummer Volunteer Fire Department: \$1,800 to purchase one set of gear for a fireman.

-Red Lake Falls Volunteer Fire Department: \$900 to purchase two pagers.

-Red Lake Falls Volunteer Ambulance Association: \$1,250 to help purchase pagers and radio.

-Viking Fire and Rescue: \$1,500 to help purchase tracks for the Prowler used for grass-land fires.

Monies to benefit the general public were awarded to these organizations:

-Life Care Center: \$500 to provide positive alternatives.

-Red Lake County Victim Services: \$500 to help pay vic-

tim emergency expenses.

-American Cancer Society-Red Lake Co Chapter: \$500 to help pay for research, patient care and travel expenses.

-Pennington County Historical Society: \$1,200 to replace the front doors on the "Asphalt Church" at the village.

Four organizations that provide help and service to area seniors received the following grants:

-Inter-County Nursing Service of TRF: \$1,000 to help with the cost of maintenance care home health.

-Middle River-Thief Lake Living-at-Home/Block Nurse Program: \$500 to help with medical transportation reimbursement for volunteers.

-St. Hilaire Senior Center: \$500 to help purchase tables, chairs and paint for the senior center.

-Goodridge Senior Citizens Center: \$1,000 to help with the cost to repair the front side of the senior building.

The RLE Trust Board of Directors determines grants two times per year, in March and September. Serving on the board are Patty Mickelson, President, Oklee; Randy Knutson, Vice-President, Newfolden and Van Swanson, Secretary/Treasurer, Thief River Falls. Ex-officio directors are Bonnie Christians of Crookston and Roger Johanneck of Red Lake Falls, representing Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

Grant applications are available at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative Office or by visiting their web site at [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com).

The next deadline for when Operation RoundUp grant applications are due is Sept. 8.

## Install off-peak electric heating equipment and receive off-peak incentive

Any new off-peak electric heating equipment purchased and installed after May 1, 2014 qualifies for an off-peak electric heat incentive.

Members will receive \$20 per kilowatt (kW) for qualifying electric heating equipment with a maximum incentive of \$600. The electric equipment must be part of an off-peak heating system with a qualified backup heating source. The equipment must be hard wired.

Heat pumps may also qualify for the incentive. Air-source heat pumps will receive a \$100 per ton incentive. Ground-source heat pumps will receive a \$200 per ton incentive. Heat pumps do not have to be controlled as part of an off-peak system. Any resistance or strip heat as part of a ground-source

heating system must be controlled. The maximum incentive for heat pumps is \$600.

This off-peak electric heat installation incentive is in addition to the conservation incentives offered as part of the Cooperative's Power Savers Program.

In the wake of rising and fluctuating fossil fuel prices and with this (1209005.02 Gordon Peterson) electric heating equipment incentive, now is a great time to install off-peak electric heat.

Equip your home or place of business with a dual-fuel heating system and be set for heating seasons of the future. Call Red Lake Electric Cooperative at 253-2168 or 800-245-6068 for more information.



**Electric Plenum Heater (Above)**



**Electric Boiler-Slab Storage (Right)**

### Qualifying electric heating equipment

- Baseboard Heater
- Boiler
- Cove Heater
- Forced Air Furnace
- Plenum Heater
- Unit Heater
- ETS Furnace
- Radiant Underfloor Heat
- Slab Storage - Electric Cable
- Slab Storage - Electric Panels
- Slab Storage - Electric Boiler
- Air-Source Heat Pump
- Ground-Source Heat Pump
- ETS Room Unit



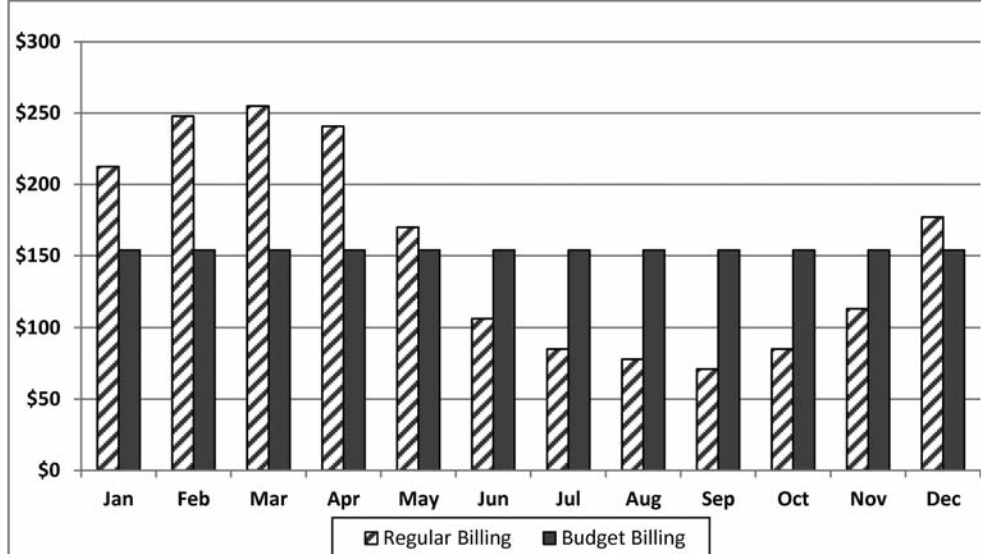
## Red Lake Falls Ambulance personnel accept Operation RoundUp donation

Members of the Red Lake Falls Volunteer Ambulance Association Mindy Piersol, right, vice president, and Tandra Landman, treasurer, accepted an Operation RoundUp grant. The donation was presented by Roger Johanneck, ex-officio director of Red Lake Electric Trust. The grant will be used to purchase pagers for ambulance volunteers.

### QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

If you like to plan ahead or avoid billing surprises, we recommend Budget Billing for your monthly Red Lake Electric Cooperative energy bill. By using a Budget Billing plan, you average out your monthly payments to R.L.E.C. based on your past years billing history. This enables you to manage better, the bigger bills that normally show up during the winter heating season. The time to start Budget Billing is now. Contact R.L.E.C. today for more information about your Budget Billing amount. 218-253-2168 or 1-800-245-6068.



## Kennel accepts Operation RoundUp grant

Bill Kennel, left, accepted an Operation RoundUp grant on behalf of the Pennington County Historical Society. The money will be used to replace the front doors on the "Asphalt Church" at Peder Engelstad Pioneer Village in Thief River Falls. The grant was presented by Kevin Reich, Red Lake Electric Cooperative, on behalf of Red Lake Electric Trust.

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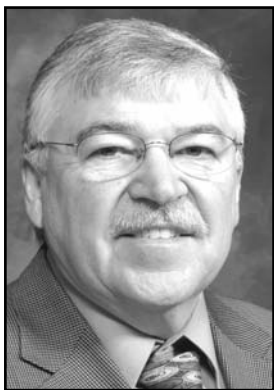
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## Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



# An ounce of prevention or a pound of cure

Service interruptions, electrical outages, or however you describe when the power goes out, is an experience we all like to avoid. Unfortunately, weather conditions and other situations occur that are next to impossible to prevent, but there are outages our crews respond to, that are avoidable.

One of the most common avoidable service interruptions is “service overload.”

These occur when a member has added equipment beyond the capacity of the electric service (3914002.05, David Bach) causing a fuse, or in some cases, a transformer to “blow.”

Fall and winter are the most common times of year we see “overload” related problems that cause the power to go out. Motors are added as part of grain handling equipment during harvest season, and portable plug-in electric space heaters are the winter season’s biggest culprit.

We recommend if you have any question about whether your service is built to handle a new load you will be adding, give us a call and we can help you do an evaluation of your plans. Adding a 10 horsepower motor, and in some cases, a five horse power motor can be too

much for the existing transformer or fusing.

Every transformer or fuse has an overload point, and when it happens in the evening or over a weekend, it is more expensive to repair.

While it seems that the fall harvest and the next heating season are a long ways away, now is a good time to prepare or upgrade your electrical service if you are adding electric heat, motors or other electrical load. A service upgrade can be done conveniently and help you avoid a power interruption.

# Practical pointers for National Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and Red Lake Electric Cooperative is joining with the Electrical Safety Foundation International to raise awareness about potential home electrical hazards and the importance of electrical safety. This year’s campaign, “Back to the Basics,” challenges consumers to make home electrical safety assessments a priority.

According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the average home today has a minimum of three televisions, two DVD players, at least one digital camera, one desktop computer and two cell phones.

“Modern homes run on electricity, but if you don’t properly maintain your electrical products they can create hazards,” warns Kevin Reich, member services manager. “The good news is that eliminating electrical hazards from your home doesn’t have to be difficult or expensive.”

Many homes and their elec-

trical systems were built before most modern-day home electronics and appliances were even invented. Today’s increased demand for energy can overburden an older home’s electrical system.

Red Lake Electric offers the following tips to help identify and eliminate electrical hazards to protect yourself, your family and your home:

- Make sure entertainment centers and computer equipment have plenty of space around them for ventilation.
- Use extension cords as a temporary solution, and never as a permanent power supply.
- Do not place extension cords in high traffic areas, under carpets, or across walkways, where they pose a potential tripping hazard.
- Use a surge protector to protect your computer and other electronic equipment from damage caused by voltage changes.
- Heavy reliance on power strips is an indication that you

have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed by a qualified, licensed electrician.

• Keep liquids, including drinks, away from electrical items such as televisions and computers.

Electrical safety awareness and education among consumers, families, employees, and communities will prevent electrical fires, injuries, and fatalities.

*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 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety. For more information about ESFI and electrical safety, visit [www.electrical-safety.org](http://www.electrical-safety.org).*



## Report from the Office

by Shirley Bregier

# Changes to RLEC billing cycle

Red Lake Electric will be changing the date we read your electric meter starting June 2014. Currently RLEC reads your meter around the 10th of each month and your payment is due on the 5th of the following month. RLEC will be moving to calendar month billing with the June 2014 electric bill. We are doing this for a couple reasons.

First Minnkota Power Cooperative, our power supplier, implemented a new billing period at the beginning of 2014. Secondly, it makes communicating with you, the member better. RLEC will no longer have to estimate monthly totals and members will be able to see an actual monthly usage instead of parts of two months.

This change will start with the electric bill the member receives in June 2014.

The June billing will include usage from May 11th thru June 20th and will also include a prorated facility charge for the extra 10 days to start the change.

The member will receive their electric bill the first week in July to be due July 25th. Your August bill will include usage from June 21 thru July 31 and again a prorated facility charge for the extra 10 days. Starting in August members will be billed from the first of each month thru the last day of the month. Each member will receive their electric bill on the 10th of the month with their payment due on the 25th of each month. If you are

an ACH customer please note the different due date on your electric bill and record it in your check register accordingly.

I know change can be challenging, so when you receive your electric bill in the mail, please pay close attention to the due date as well as the other information that is on your bill each month. If you have a previous balance owing, please check the message center for the date by which you need to contact our office.

If you have any questions on the change in the billing cycle please give us a call or send an e-mail so we can help make this a smooth transition.

# Closed Memorial Day

In respectful remembrance, Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarter facilities will be closed Monday, May 26 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.



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.



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

# Call Before You Dig

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!

With the arrival of spring, many people have plans for digging 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**

# 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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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.



# Recipe Corner



## Dilly Pea Salad

- 1 cup (8 ounces) sour cream
- 4 teaspoons lemon juice
- 4 teaspoons sliced green onion
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon dill weed
- 1/2 teaspoon curry powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, optional
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 packages (10 ounces each) frozen peas, thawed

In a medium bowl, combine the first eight ingredients. Add peas; toss. Chill until ready to serve.

**Yield:** 6 servings

## Meat Loaf

- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup milk
- 2/3 cup finely crushed saltines
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon rubbed sage
- Dash pepper
- 1-1/2 pounds lean ground beef
- 1 cup ketchup
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

In a large bowl, beat the eggs. Add milk, saltines, onion, salt, sage and pepper. Add beef and mix well. Shape into an 8-1/2-in. x 4-1/2-in. loaf in an ungreased shallow baking pan. Combine remaining ingredients; spread 3/4 cup over meat loaf. Bake at 350° for 60-65 minutes or until no pink remains; drain. Let stand 10 minutes before slicing. Serve with remaining sauce.

**Yield:** 6-8 servings

## Meat Loaf Hamburgers

- 1-1/2 pounds ground beef
- 1 cup (8 ounces) sour cream
- 1-1/4 cups crushed cornflakes
- 1 tablespoon diced onion
- 1/2 to 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 8 kaiser or hamburger buns, split
- Lettuce leaves
- Tomato slices

In a large bowl, gently mix the first six ingredients; shape into eight patties. Grill, broil or pan fry until the meat is no longer pink. Serve on buns with lettuce and tomato.

**Yield:** 8 servings

## Creamed Celery and Peas

- 1/3 cup water
- 2 cups sliced celery
- 1 package (10 ounces) frozen peas
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary, crushed
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Dash garlic salt
- 1 tablespoon chopped pimientos, drained
- 1/4 cup slivered almonds, toasted

In a saucepan over medium heat, bring water to a boil. Add celery; cover and cook for 8 minutes. Add peas; return to a boil. Cover and cook for 2-3 minutes or until vegetables are tender; drain. In a small bowl, combine sour cream, rosemary, salt and garlic salt; mix well. Toss vegetables with pimientos; place in a serving bowl. Top with sour cream mixture. Sprinkle with almonds.

**Yield:** 6 servings

## Creamed Beans and Potatoes

- 4 medium red potatoes, cut into wedges
- 1 package (10 ounces) frozen beans *or* peas
- 2 tablespoons butter *or* margarine
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup milk

Place the potatoes in a saucepan; cover with water and cook until tender, about 10 minutes. Cook the beans according to package directions. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a saucepan; stir in flour, salt and pepper until smooth. Gradually add milk. Bring to a boil; boil for one minute. Drain potatoes and beans; place in a serving bowl. Add sauce and stir to coat.

**Yield:** 6 servings

## Old-Fashioned Rice Pudding

- 3-1/2 cups milk
- 1/2 cup uncooked long grain rice
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, optional
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Ground cinnamon, optional

In a saucepan, combine milk, rice, sugar and salt if desired; bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Pour into a greased 1-1/2-qt. baking dish. Cover and bake at 325° for 45 minutes, stirring every 15 minutes. Add raisins and vanilla; cover and bake for 15 minutes. Sprinkle with cinnamon if desired. Serve warm or chilled. Store in the refrigerator.

**Yield:** about 6 servings

# Top five long-term financial planning mistakes

Unless you win the lottery or inherit a fortune, financial security rarely arrives through good luck. Instead, it's built by making sound financial decisions and taking action throughout your lifetime in a conscious way. So, what kinds of "non-actions" can impede your long-term financial success? Here are some reminders about traps to avoid.

**Failing to set financial goals:** It may seem hard to set long-term financial goals because the future contains so many unknowns. Yet without a plan, your money can end up diverted in dozens of directions and slip away. Set some specific goals for what you want your money to accomplish and then prioritize—for example, saving for retirement, paying off a credit card within a certain time-frame or building your emergency savings fund. Online calculators such as Bankrate.com are a great tool for setting savings or payment plans to meet your financial objectives.

**Missing out on retirement benefits:** Do you have a 401(k) plan at work? Perhaps your employer even offers to match your contributions up to a certain level? These are opportunities you can't afford not to maximize. Because 401(k) contributions are made before income taxes are calculated on your paycheck, (4409080.04, Randall D. Pederson) they give you a discount on your savings—plus they lower your taxable income. An employer match is like money sitting on the table, waiting for you to take it. The bottom line: You have a lot to gain from benefits like these, so take

advantage of them whenever you can.

**Waiting to save:** Compound interest is an investor's best friend. That means the sooner you start putting money aside for retirement—even a small amount—the better. Starting to save early in your career can make a significant difference in the nest egg you can build over time. But whatever your age, don't get discouraged—the time to start is now.

**Letting your credit slip:** In many ways your credit record and score are important to your financial health. A lower score can result from failing to make payments to creditors on time, using a high percentage of your available credit, or conversely, not using credit much at all. A low score means you could have limited access to other credit, and you'll pay higher interest rates on mortgages, auto loans and credit cards. You can get a free credit report from each of the three reporting agencies each year at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com).

**Following advice that doesn't fit your situation:** Friends, colleagues, and relatives may offer you financial advice over the years. Remember that your financial situation is unique, and what seems to be working for your neighbor may not be best for you. Instead, educate yourself on your choices and find trusted professionals who can offer objective guidance—that is, who don't gain financially from your choices. You're working hard for the money you save—make sure you're in the driver's seat when it comes to managing it.

## Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. Operating Report

### MONTHLY COMPARISON

	MARCH 2013	MARCH 2014
Total Revenue .....	\$1,268,078	\$ 1,499,190
Total Margins .....	\$ 291,453	\$ 369,061
Cost of Power .....	\$ 865,263	\$ 959,458
KWH's Purchased.....	12,878,799	15,091,386
Capital Credits Paid to Estates ..	2,304	\$ 0

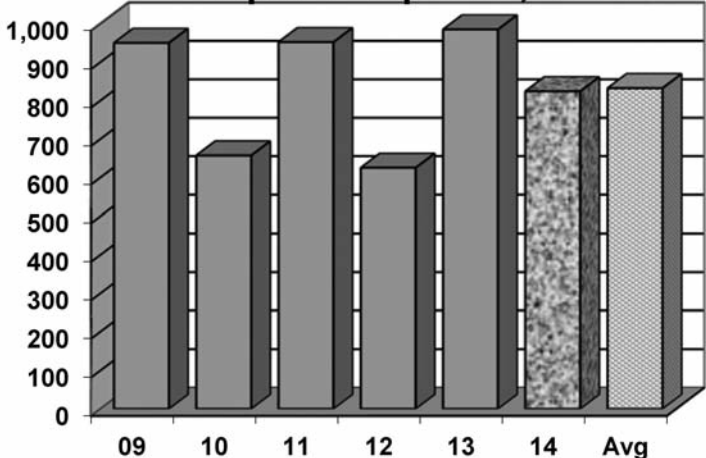
### YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

	MARCH 2013	MARCH 2014
Total Revenue .....	\$4,365,970	\$ 4,893,964
Total Margins .....	\$ 828,659	\$ 1,081,107
Cost of Power .....	\$2,891,742	\$ 3,054,456
KWH's Purchased .....	45,854,968	49,665,634
New Service Connections .....	7	1
Customers Served.....	6	5,281
Capital Credits Paid to Estates ..	\$ 39,666	\$ 13,236
Miles of Line		
Overhead.....	2,324	2,323
Underground.....	256	264

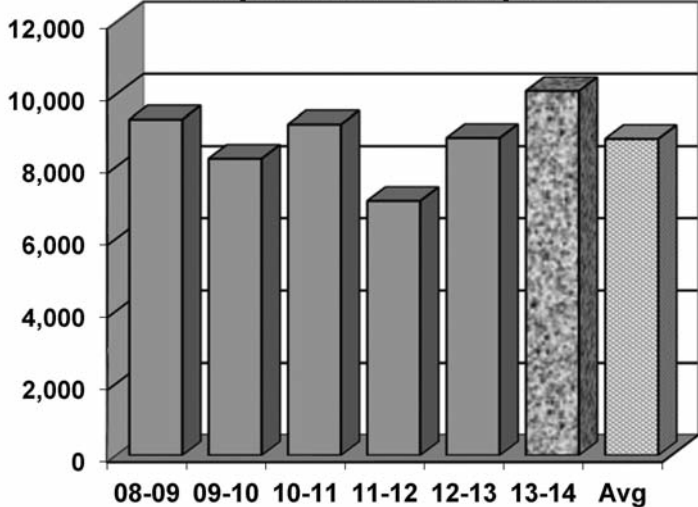
# DEGREE DAYS

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.

## DEGREE DAYS April 1 - April 30, 2014



## Year To Date September 1 to April 30



# From the Mail Bag

Dear RLEC,

Spring greetings to all! Thank you for the morning refreshments and meal, for the music and the numerous door prizes given at your annual meeting. Thank you for the \$75 credit I won on my electric bill.

Sincerely yours,  
Jill Hall  
Newfolden

Dear RLEC,

On behalf of the St. Hilaire Senior Center we would like to give a sincere "Thank You" to the Red Lake Electric Trust, Inc.

With the \$500 grant given by the Trust to the St. Hilaire Senior Center, we are able to do some much needed repairs to the older section of the Senior Center.

Your generosity and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Bernard Huot  
St. Hilaire Senior Center

Dear RLEC,

Thank you for your donation to the RLCC Post Prom Party. We appreciate your generosity and had a great time!

Sincerely,  
RLCC students

## Don't want to write a check? Want to save on postage?

Red Lake Electric has a new payment option to make paying your bill easy. This service is free. Sign up is simple. Go to [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com) and click on the Bill4U icon.

Bill4U allows you to make your payments 24 hours a day directly from your checking or savings account eliminating the cost of the check and postage. Bill4U allows you access to your billing statements at any time. Bill4U allows you to view and compare your kilowatt-hour usage. If you have any questions or need more information, visit our web site or call Red Lake Electric 800-245-6068.



KEZAR  
Music

Joel Kezar, Owner  
Milo Ballingrud, Sales

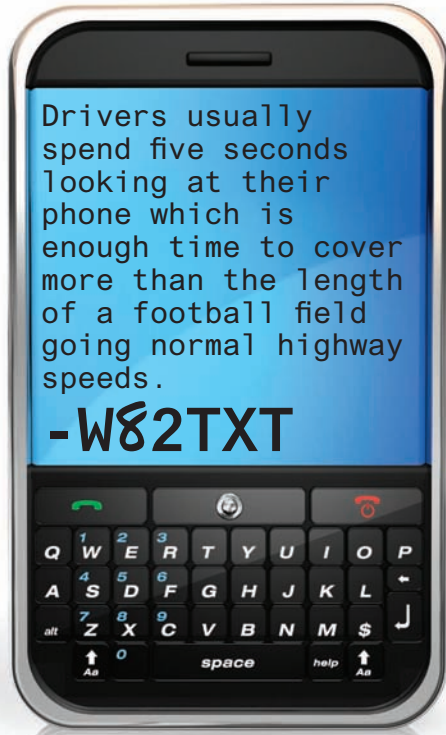
Store Hours: Monday-Friday 8 A.M. - 6 P.M. Saturdays 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

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Red Lake County Insurance

Red Lake Falls, MN

218-253-2177 • [rlci@gvtel.com](mailto:rlci@gvtel.com)

[www.redlakecountyinsurance.com](http://www.redlakecountyinsurance.com)

Auto-Owners Insurance



## Farmers Union Oil Company

Thief River Falls 218-681-3512



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

## WILCOX PLUMBING AND HEATING, Inc.

RED LAKE FALLS

Plumbing/Heating/Air conditioning

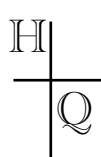
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License No. 1770PM  
BILL J. MOSER, Master Plumber  
License No. 6039PM  
JASON JOHNSRUD, Master Plumber  
License No. 064717PM  
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- In-floor heating • Oil furnaces
- Pressure systems • Gas furnaces
- Electric heat pumps

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The  
Head-Quarters  
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Tanning Salon

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## VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

# Managing Weiss Asparagus Farm requires a worthwhile commitment

By Heather Blodgett

There's a buzz around Red Lake Falls every year in early May. You can hear the chatter of people asking "Is it ready yet?" It's asparagus season and many anxiously wait for Weiss Asparagus Farm to harvest the early vegetable.

Ron and Sharon Weiss, owners of the farm, had the idea to start farming asparagus 10 years ago after Ron sold land that had asparagus on it. They planted asparagus by seed that first year and just kept adding to it over the years. "It took off and pretty soon we had a field of it," said Sharon.

The farm is a family endeavor as the couple's four kids, Shelby, Kristen, Sara and Matt have always helped harvest. Other family and friends often help with the large job as well. "We started it as a way to plan for the kids' college," explained Sharon. Now they also use the funds to take family trips that would not be possible otherwise. So far the family has traveled to Hawaii, the Bahamas, Virgin Islands, have taken a cruise and are planning to go to Mexico this coming Christmas.

Currently they have three acres in asparagus but are in the process of planting 50,000 crowns for ten additional acres using a custom asparagus planter built by Ron. "He's good at that," said Sharon of Ron's ability to look at machinery once and built his own version for their use on the farm. "He can just look at it and make it."

Asparagus is planted (4929002.01, Nazareth Congregation) the first year from seed, grows for an additional year, and then is ready to be harvested the third year. Planting from crowns speeds the process so it can be harvested the second year it's in the field. As it is a perennial crop, it doesn't need to be planted every year, but it does get a good mowing in the spring to prepare for the new spears to come up.

Once the new plants are ready for harvest, they will have a total of 13 acres and may need hired help to harvest the crop as asparagus is harvested by hand. Each person walks along the five foot rows and bends down to cut or snap pieces individually. It can be back breaking work, according to Sharon.

As each crown grows 12 to 14 spears and each spear ripens at a different time, the field needs to be walked every day during the six to eight week harvest to ensure each spear is picked at the peak of ripeness.



The Weiss family works together planting and harvesting asparagus during the busy growing season. They are, front, Sharon and Ron, back from left, Shelby, Kristen, Matt and Sara Weiss.

"You pick asparagus whether the sun is shining, it's raining, or it's sleeting," said Sharon, as the family picked despite the cold and sleet one year to save over 100 pounds of asparagus from freezing. If it's not picked daily, it could go to seed too early.

"Weather is a big factor in the whole thing," she said. "The heat will make asparagus grow fast. It can grow several inches on a hot day. You have to be committed to doing this every day. You've definitely got to be picking it."

Harvest usually begins in early May and goes through June. As Sharon works a day job as the 4-H program coordinator for Red Lake County, Ron raises corn, wheat and soybeans on the farm while serving on the Red Lake County Social Services

Board and as a RLC Commissioner, and the kids are involved in various school and work activities, picking is done every evening.

After picking, the spears are washed, trimmed, weighed and bundled, a process done completely by hand and often lasting into the late night hours. Ron is planning on fabricating an asparagus picker to assist in the process for the 2015 season. The picker does not actually pick the asparagus, as that is still done by hand, but it does allow pickers to ride along at a low angle to pick from a seated position.

Their goal with the additional acreage is to have an asparagus festival in the future. Sharon wants to hold the festival in honor of her sister, MaryAnn Solie, to raise money for the fight

against cancer. Although no plans are in the works yet as the festival is several years down the road, ideas for the event include a themed 5K run/walk, kids activities, asparagus cooking demonstrations, an asparagus cookbook, and even a pick-your-own-asparagus field so customers can try their hand at harvesting their own asparagus.

The Weiss family sells their asparagus to local grocery stores in Red Lake Falls, Fertile, East Grand Forks and Grand Forks and also at the Mentor Farmers' Market, but most people contact Ron or Sharon directly to get their asparagus fix. Sharon and her mother-in-law, Lucille Weiss, team up to sell tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and other vegetables, as well as jams, jellies, baked goods and pickled asparagus at the farmer's market as well.

The back breaking work has also had payoffs for the family that aren't monetary. Ron and Sharon were asked to host one of eight sessions as part of the Local Foods College that was offered through the University of Minnesota, Crookston. During their session on asparagus, they answered questions from participants and a facilitator.

The Weiss family has also been able to meet many people in the community that have become customers. Sharon has been recognized in the grocery store in Grand Forks and asked about the asparagus. The family often hears from locals how they enjoy the asparagus and the different ways customers prepare the product.

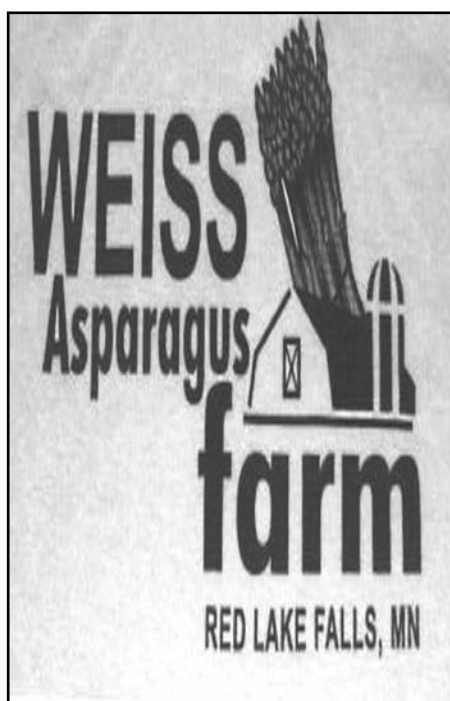
As asparagus is a staple in their diet, they eat it steamed, grilled, baked with parmesan cheese and in black bean asparagus salad. Pickled asparagus is a family favorite. "Asparagus is good for you," said Sharon as she explained there are many health benefits. The green plant is packed with antioxidants, vitamins and fiber.

They've been preparing for this season by hiring a company out of Grand Rapids to create a special asparagus box for local grocery stores. Ron and Sharon worked with the company to design the crate specifically for asparagus, a type of container that was not yet in production. The white, custom box will even feature logos advertising the Weiss Asparagus brand.

Harvest for this year's crop began this week. Weiss Asparagus sells for \$3.50 per pound if purchased directly and is available by calling 253-2908, 218-289-3079 or by e-mail at [swiess@gvtel.com](mailto:swiess@gvtel.com).



A custom asparagus planter, fabricated by Ron Weiss, plants the crop as the Weiss Farm will increase their asparagus operation by 10 acres this year. Riding on the planter are, from left, Sara Weiss; Sandy Eggobroten, Ron's sister; Randy Weiss, Ron's brother; Kristen, Sharon and Matt Weiss.



Asparagus is harvested by hand and collected in totes. Once a field is picked the asparagus is trimmed, washed, weighed and bundled the same day as it is important to get asparagus chilled as soon as possible to keep it fresh.

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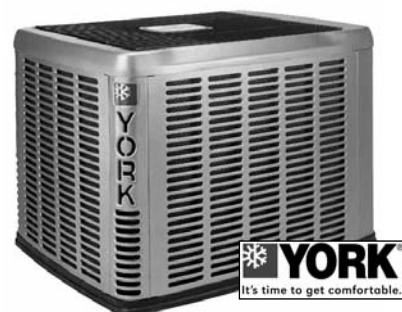
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# Consider tamper resistant receptacles

**Prevent shocks and burns:** Each year, approximately 2,400 children suffer severe shock and burns when they stick items into the slots of electrical receptacles. That is nearly seven children a day. It is estimated there are six to 12 fatalities a year related to this. Nearly one-third of these injuries are the result of small children placing ordinary household objects, such as keys, pins, or paperclips into the outlets with disastrous consequences.

Located in practically every room in every house throughout the United States, electrical outlets and receptacles represent a constant and real danger wherever young children are found.

But now, new technology called tamper resistant receptacles, or TRRs, provide a simple, affordable, reliable and permanent solution to help prevent these kinds of injuries.

**Automatic protection:** TRRs look just like ordinary outlets, but are designed with spring-loaded receptacle cover plates that close off the receptacle openings, or slots.

When equal pressure is simultaneously applied to both sides, the receptacle cover plates open to allow the standard plug to make contact with the receptacle contact points. Without this simultaneous pressure, the cover plates remain closed, preventing insertion of foreign objects and protecting your children from painful, traumatic electrical injuries.

Although not widely used in homes until recently, TRRs have been required in hospital pediatric care facilities for more than 20 years. In fact, TRRs have proven to be so effective that the National Electrical Code (NEC) now (5528004.03, Bjorn H. and Ellishia A. Turnwall) requires them to be installed in all new home construction. Existing homes can be easily retrofitted with TRRs using the same installation guidelines that apply to standard receptacles. TRRs should only be installed by a licensed electrician.

Though some special interest groups have voiced objections to the NEC revision because of concerns about the added costs, these specialized outlets cost about 50 cents more than a traditional receptacle.

In a newly constructed home, TRRs would add as little as \$50 to the total cost of the home. In existing homes, standard electrical receptacles can be replaced with TRRs for as little as \$2 per outlet – a small price to pay to ensure that your children are protected against electrical shocks and burns from electrical outlets.

*Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI)*

# Buckle Up, Minnesota

A record percentage of Minnesotans buckle up—almost 95 percent—yet each year more than half of the motorists killed in crashes aren't belted. The failure to buckle up translates to more than 150 deaths and more than 400 serious injuries annually.

In a crash, odds are six-times greater for injury if a motorist is not buckled up. In rollover crashes, unbelted motorists are usually ejected from the vehicle and, in most cases, the vehicle will roll over them. In less severe crashes unbelted motorists may crack teeth on the steering wheel or break their noses, and even slam into and injure others in the vehicle.

Properly wearing a seat belt reduces the risk of fatal injury to front seat passenger occupants by 45 percent in a car and 60 percent in a light truck. Seat belts are the most effective means of protecting yourself from injury while riding in a vehicle.

Seat belts restrain you in the vehicle's designed protective space, giving you room to live in the event of a crash. Seat belts also keep you correctly positioned behind the wheel to help maintain control of a vehicle.

**What does Minnesota law say?**

Drivers and passengers in all seating positions must be buckled up or in the correct child restraint. Law enforcement will stop and ticket unbelted drivers or passengers, including those in the back. A seat belt violation can cost more than \$100. Seat belt enforcement of this law begins with the driver—speak up and insist passengers are buckled up.

Minnesota Seat Belt Facts, 2010–2012

- 852 vehicle occupants killed; only 403 (47 percent) were known to be belted
- 2,496 vehicle occupants seriously injured; only 1,458 (58 percent) were known to be belted
- During this period, 189 motorists were killed during nighttime hours (9 p.m.–3 a.m.) and only 56 (30 percent) of these victims were known to be belted
- Nearly 84 percent of unbelted traffic deaths occur on Greater Minnesota roads

**Seat belt use safety tips:**

- Always buckle up and insist passengers are belted, too. In a crash, unbelted motorists can slam into and injure or kill others inside a vehicle.
- Wear lap belts low and snug across the hips; shoulder straps should never be tucked under an arm or behind the back—not only is this unsafe, it is illegal.
- Children under age 13 should always ride in the back seat. Kids under 4-feet 9-inches should be in a booster seat.
- Pregnant women should wear the lap belt under the stomach, as low on the hips as possible and against the upper thighs. The shoulder belt should rest between the breasts.
- Airbags are designed to work with seat belts to keep vehicle occupants in a safe position during a crash. Airbags are not effective when the motorist is not belted.

*Sources: Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety National Highway Traffic Safety Administration*

*Reprinted from Minnesota NETS*

### What Does a Tamper Resistant Receptacle (TRR) Do?



Tamper resistant receptacles (TRRs) provide a simple, permanent solution for preventing common childhood shock and electrical burn injuries.

## When to pull the plug

**By Luann Dart**

Saying goodbye to an old friend can be daunting. But pulling the plug on an outdated refrigerator or dishwasher might save you money; new appliances are often considerably more energy-efficient.

A new refrigerator consumes 75 percent less energy than a 1970s model. Replace a vintage clothes washer and save \$60 on utility bills and nearly 5,000 gallons of water a year, according to the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers.

Not every new appliance is a good bet; always look for the ENERGY STAR label. It signals energy-efficient models.

Ready to save? Walk through your home to find opportunities to pull the plug.

**Cleaning, kitchen and laundry costs:** In the laundry room, a full-sized ENERGY STAR-certified clothes washer uses 15 gallons of water per load, compared to the 23 gallons used by a standard machine. During the machine's lifetime, this saves 27,000 gallons of water.

Replace your kitchen's classic refrigerator with an ENERGY STAR-certified model to save between \$200 and \$1,100 in lifetime energy costs. Today's average refrigerator uses less energy than a continually lit 60-watt light bulb. Resist the urge to move the old refrigerator to the basement or the garage. Instead, say goodbye and recycle the energy-guzzler.

Was your dishwasher built before 1994? If so, you're paying an extra \$40 a year on your utility bills compared to neighbors with an ENERGY STAR-qualified model.

**Screen savings:** Televisions might be a little more baffling. As screen sizes increase, energy consumption may also rise. You can still be a savvy shopper. ENERGY STAR-certified TVs are about 25 percent more efficient than conventional models. LED screens use 20 percent less energy than LCD TVs.

Once you purchase a TV, calibrate it by adjusting the contrast and brightness to a moderate level. By default, new televisions are set to dynamic, high-contrast settings. This consumes more power than standard, lower-contrast settings.

**Smart settings:** Attached to old appliances? You can still save with smart settings. For example, heating water creates the greatest expense when washing dishes or clothes. Set your water heater at 120 degrees and be sure your clothes washer or dishwasher is full whenever used.

Here are a few other ways to save without buying new appliances:

- **DON'T KEEP FOOD TOO COOL:** In the kitchen, don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 37 to 40 degrees for the fresh food compartment and 5 degrees for the freezer section.
- **TOAST, DON'T ROAST:** Use toaster ovens or microwave ovens for small meals rather than your large stovetop or oven.
- **AIR DRY DISHES:** Use the dishwasher's "eco" option or use a no-heat air dry feature. Scrape food pieces off the plates, rather than rinsing them.
- **COLD CLOTHES:** In the laundry room, wash your clothes in cold water using cold-water detergents whenever possible. Adjust load settings for smaller loads.
- **LOSE LINT:** Clean the lint screen in the dryer after every use to improve the dryer's efficiency.

## 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)

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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.

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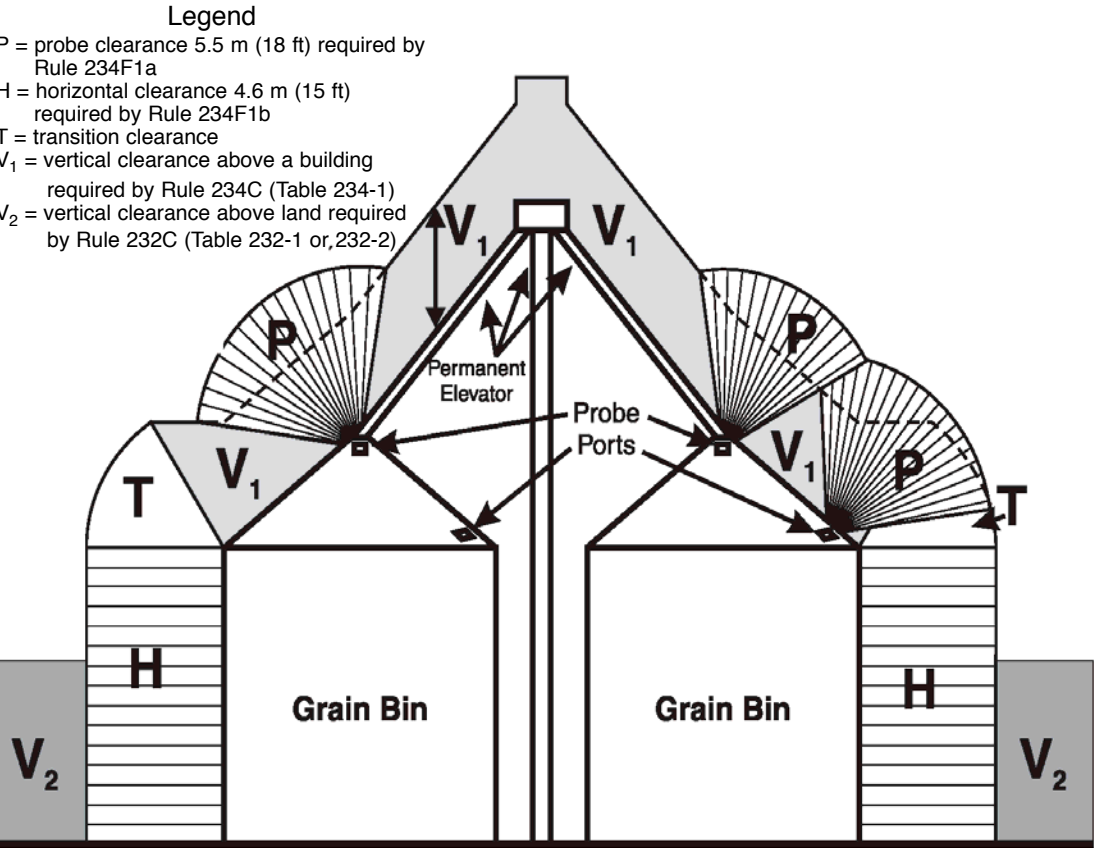


Figure 234-4(a) – Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevators. National Electrical Safety Code

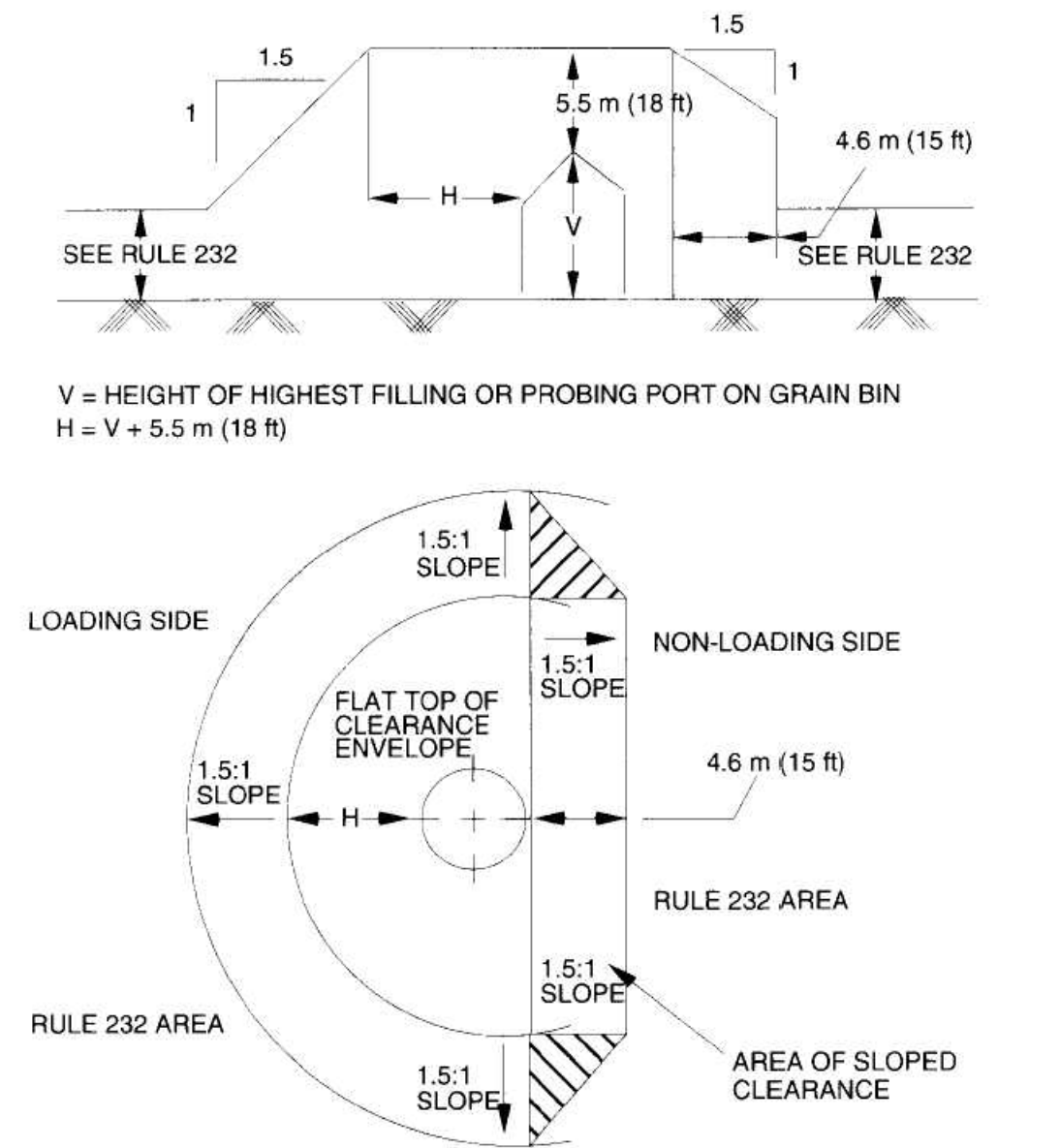


Figure 234-4(b) – Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by portable augers, conveyors, or elevators. National Electrical Safety Code

As rewarding as it may be, farming is an extremely difficult job - and it ranks among the top 10 most dangerous professions in the United States. At Red Lake Electric Cooperative, safety is top priority for all - our employees and our members.

Our farmers work hard to get the job done, and sometimes it's easy to forget all the necessary stops to take when practicing safe operations. Grain bins are siloed spaces built for storing grain and fermented feed known as silage. These bins play an integral role in efficiency and profitability of farm and ranch operations, and safety regulations should always be considered when working around these structures.

Whether you're purchasing new grain bins or remodeling areas that contain existing ones, proximity to overhead lines

must be a considered factor.

**Safe clearance:** The National Electrical Safety Code requires an 18-foot minimum vertical clearance from the highest point of the filling port of the grain bin to nearby high-voltage wires and a 55-foot minimum distance from the power line to the grain bin wall. Changes to landscaping and drainage work can affect clearance height of power lines, so remember to check these measurements regularly.

**Filling grain bins:** High-voltage power lines are not insulated, so it's important to remember to maintain an adequate high-wire clearance when using a portable auger, conveyor or elevator to fill your grain bin.

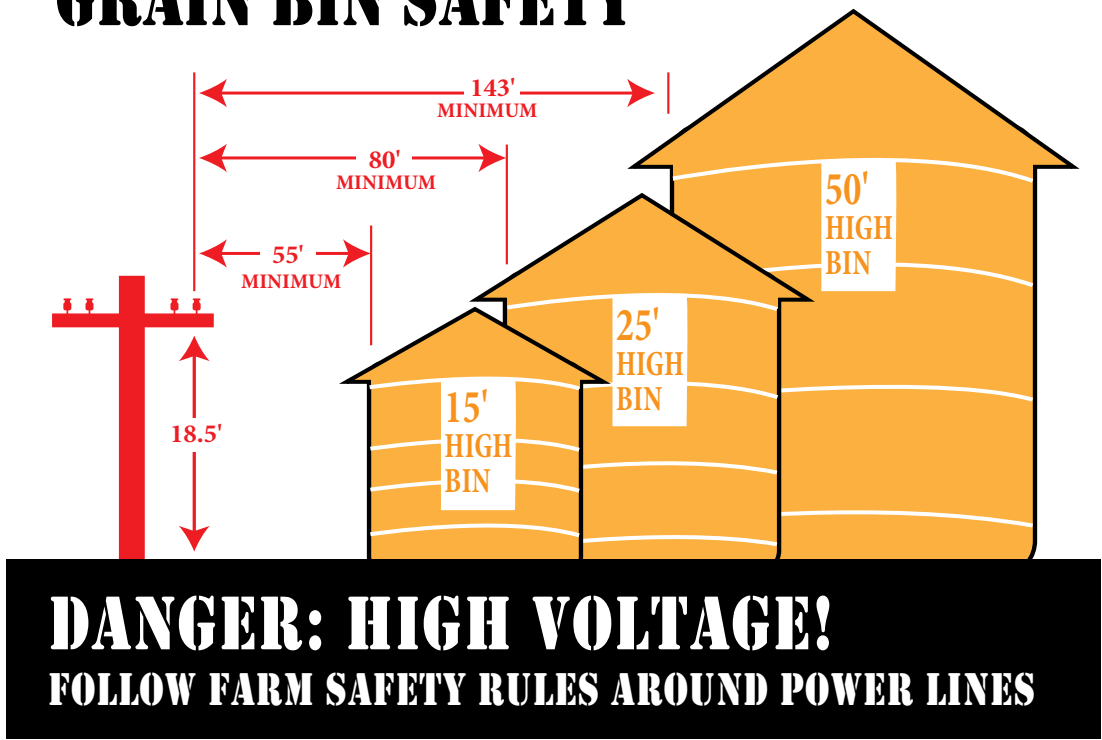
**Moving equipment near grain bin:** When moving equipment, such as a hopper or a scaffold, be aware of nearby power

lines. Remember to maintain a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety.

Accidents can happen in a split second, which is why Red Lake Electric Cooperative reminds you to always use caution when working near power lines. Bins that are erected that do not meet NESC clearance guidelines may have to be moved or the power line moved. This would be at the expense of the owner of the bins.

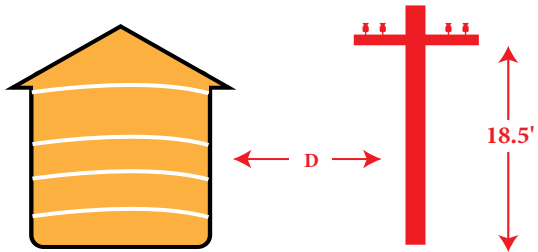
If you are considering a plan for a new grain bin or reconstruction of an existing bin's site, please contact Bob Guillemette or Steve Conely at 218-253-2168 or 1-800-245-6068 and let them assist you in maintaining a safe environment for you and your family.

## GRAIN BIN SAFETY



Height of grain storage structure	D=Minimum distance from line to bin wall*
15 ft.	55 ft.
20 ft.	68 ft.
25 ft.	80 ft.
30 ft.	93 ft.
35 ft.	104 ft.
40 ft.	118 ft.
50 ft.	143 ft.
60 ft.	168 ft.
70 ft.	193 ft.
80 ft.	218 ft.

\*Based on a typical power line having a vertical clearance of 18.5 feet above the ground and a supply line phase to ground voltage of more than 0V to 22KV; National Electrical Safety Code Rule 232.



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## May is Electrical Safety Month

Farmers and farm workers must plan ahead for a safe planting season

Farming is perennially near the top of the list of the most dangerous jobs in the United States according to Bureau of Labor Statistics. One hazard faced by farm workers, while they are also feeling the pressure to get the crops in the ground, is electricity and the equipment that carries it to homes and businesses. However, with proper planning and education, risks of and accidents involving electricity can be greatly reduced.

Electrical Safety Instructor and Safe Electricity Advisory Board Member Jim Miles says, "There are steps farmers can take to help keep themselves and workers safe when working around electricity." Miles goes on to say, "One critical part of safety around electricity is awareness. With the use of large equipment, farmers can easily find themselves in dangerous proximity to overhead lines. Being aware of the location of those wires can help reduce accidents."

Safe Electricity urges farmers and farm workers to remember:

- Keep a 10-foot minimum distance around power lines. That means 10 feet above, below, and to the side of power lines.

- Use a spotter when moving machinery around the farm. It can be difficult to judge how close a piece of machinery is from the driver's seat.
- Use caution when handling long items such as irrigation pipe, ladders and rods. Coming too close to a power line can

happen. Remember to maintain a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety.

Overhead electric wires are not the only source of electrical contact that can result in a serious incident. Pole guy wires, used to stabilize utility poles, are grounded. However, when one of the guy wires is broken it can cause an electric current disruption. This can make those neutral wires anything but harmless. If you hit a guy wire and break it, call the utility to fix it. Do not do it yourself. When dealing with electrical



cause electricity to arc, or "jump," to conducting material or objects.

- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Many tractors are now equipped with radios and communications systems that have very tall antennas extending (7221001.03, Leland Ellingson) from the cab that could make contact with power lines.

- Avoid raising the arms of planters, cultivators, or truck beds near power lines.

- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.

- Remember, even non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes, and

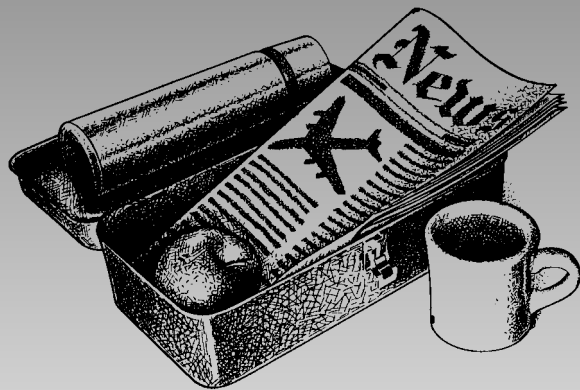
poles and wires, always call the electric utility.

Miles says, "If you do find yourself in a vehicle that has made contact with a power line, it is critical that you know what to do. If you don't know the proper procedures for getting out of the cab, you could be injured or killed by electricity."

Jim Flach's sprayer made contact with overhead power lines and it cost him his life. Take a few minutes to go to SafeElectricity.org, watch his story, and share it with everyone involved in your farming operation to help keep them safe.

Get more electrical safety information at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).





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One of BNI Coal's eight Kress trucks drives toward the Young Station with a 180 ton load of coal.

# A mighty big haul

Young Station, BNI working together to become more efficient

The fixation with coal haulers at the Milton R. Young Station is well documented.

As visitors on a plant tour spy one of the 180-ton Kress trucks passing by on its way to drop a load of coal at the Young Station, they are invariably stunned by the enormous tires and overall length and girth of the coal hauler.

Well the gawking may be amped up in the next few years.

BNI Coal plans to add 60 tons of capacity to its bottom-drop trucks when it replaces the old units starting the fourth quarter of this year and first quarter 2015. The trucks are needed because BNI's fleet of eight – all 180-ton units – are at least 15 years old.

Prior to the arrival of the new 240-ton trucks, which will have tires 10 to 11 feet in diameter,

modifications were made to the existing structures where the coal is dropped from the truck onto the grizzlies. In addition, a road must be built to handle another area in which BNI will mine. The plan is to start mining south of the plant in Area Mine C in early 2015.

"The new stuff is substantially larger," said Mike Heger, BNI engineering manager. "We're going to have to put new doors in the shop to get the trucks in to be serviced."

Among Kress truck improvements will be more horsepower, upgrades in emissions control and better electronics. The increased capacity will also allow BNI to decrease its fleet from eight to five coal haulers.

The trucks are just part of a plan to match the needs of BNI and the Young Station so

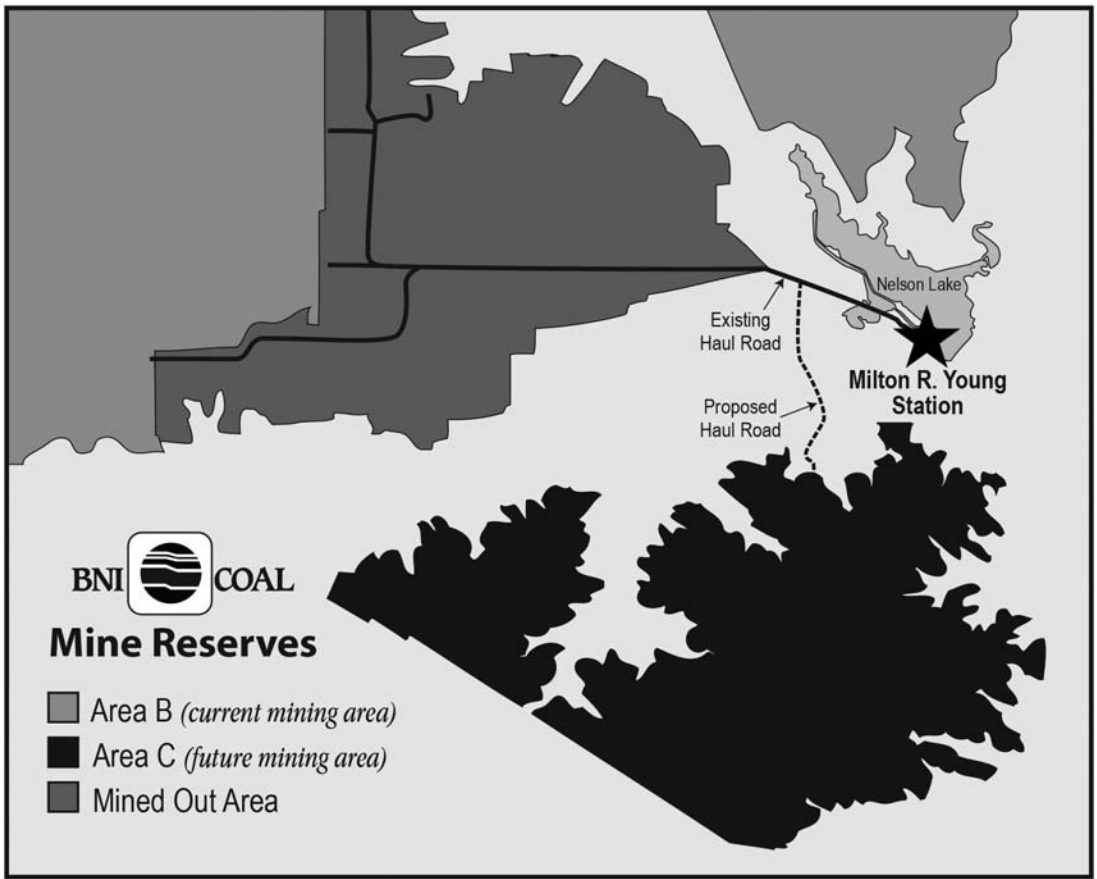
Minnkota can continue to provide energy at the lowest possible cost to its members and, ultimately, consumers.

Because the 180-ton trucks have reached their projected life span, a chain of other events in addition to the new doors at BNI will occur to make room for the 240-ton trucks' size, hauling capacity and weight.

"BNI needs new trucks and the smallest truck Kress makes is a 240-ton truck," said Wayne Haag, Minnkota production engineer.

"They are trying to stage this stuff, moving to a new area and matching up with new equipment to provide the lowest overall cost to us," said Luther Kvernén, Minnkota vice president of generation, about BNI.

On Young 2, the grizzly, the metal grating the trucks drive on



to dump the coal, was not structurally sound enough to support the new trucks. So a new grizzly and support structure was installed. The actual capacity of the hopper on Young 2 is 600 tons, which is more than adequate to support the new trucks.

On Young 1, the grizzly and support structure also was modified. "The volume of that hopper is only 200 tons," Haag said. "That won't even handle one new truck. So we're working on a concept to raise the grizzly, raise the hopper and increase the capacity."

"Right now we've got it raised 4 feet, which will provide a 300-ton capacity. That would still only handle one truck at a time. But BNI would actually want two- to two-and-a-half

times the capacity, so we'll be looking at maybe a 400-ton capacity, and I'm sure it will be 4 to 6 feet in the air. As we go up in height, we have to make sure we have a footprint out there to allow those trucks to maneuver."

Haag said project personnel also installed a suppression system for fugitive dust.

In the meantime, BNI will establish a new haul road because Area Mine C is located south of the plant. The one-way haul to the mine is 3 miles, compared to 6-7 miles for Area Mine B, which BNI is currently mining.

Haag said the grade coming off the south hill at the Young Station will be lowered to allow the trucks to come into the dumps under control.

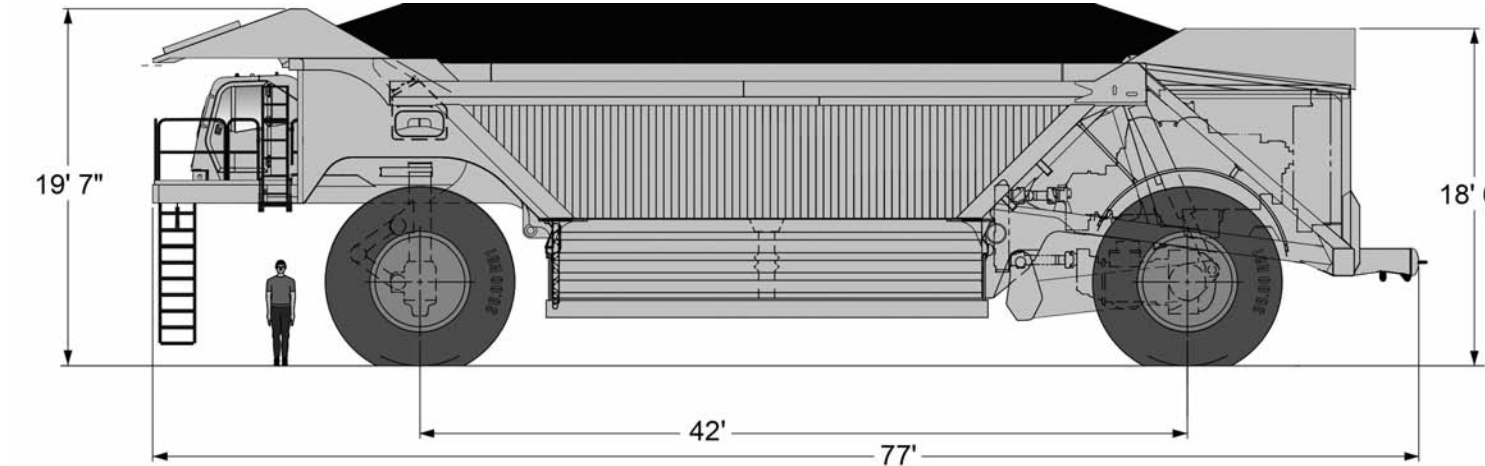
The Young 1 truck dump area was modified during the 2013 spring-summer outage; Young 2's area was modified during the 2013 fall outage. Also in the plans is a temporary road so the dragline can be walked to the Area C Mine.

"They're just going to leave the road they build in place so they will have that to get back to the haul road. That's about a 3-mile trek. Until they get this road built back here at our back gate, that's going to be what they are going to use."

The dragline, which features an electric cable for power, will need to be walked 8 miles to get to Area Mine C in 2015.

"That's going to be something to see," Haag said. "That's a heck of an umbilical cord."

Kress Hauler Comparison		
	Current Trucks CH-180	New Trucks 200CIII
Payload (tons)	180	240
Engine HP	1300	2100
Front axle weight loaded (lbs.)	268,000	26,000
Rear axle weight loaded (lbs.)	261,000	411,400
Gross weight loaded (lbs.)	529,000	37,400
Empty weight (lbs.)	169,000	57,400
Width (ft. – front axles)	19	22
Length (ft. – total)	61	77
Height (ft.)	18	19.7
Tires	33.00 R51	36.00 R51



## Remember the "No Tree Zone"

As you plan your tree and landscape plantings, consider that trees and shrubs need space to grow both above and below ground. You can reduce fire hazards, power outages and help your cooperative hold down the cost of right-of-way trimming with the proper selection and planting of trees near power lines.

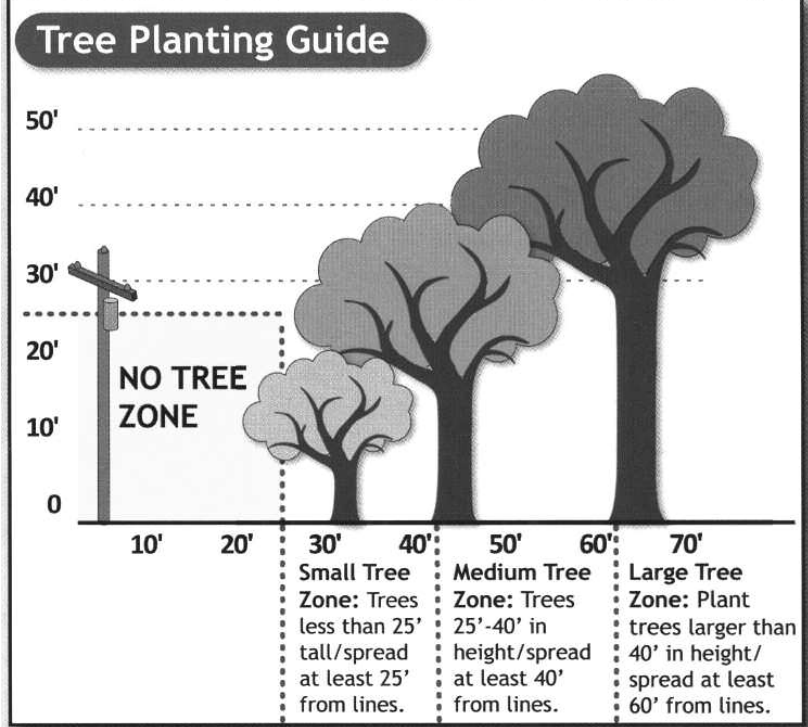
This graphic depicts proper tree planting in the vicinity of overhead electric distribution power lines, the type operated by Red Lake Electric Cooperative. The only trees that may be planted within the 80-foot wide electrical transmission line right-of-way are ornamentals or dwarf fruit trees that grow no taller than 12 feet at maturity.

Please also take care to plant trees away from underground utilities, as tree roots can grow to interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires. Know what's below before you dig. It's state law! Be sure to call 811 (or 800-252-1166)

or go to <http://gopherstateonecall.org> for information about your digging site. Within two business days~ utility facilities in your dig area will be marked or cleared, allowing you to begin digging safely. Gopher

State One Call's services are free to everyone.

Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of vegetation or materials that could limit utility service access. Always look for nearby power lines before you cut down any tree limbs. If trees appear to be growing into or leaning toward power lines, contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Never try to prune them yourself!



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