



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. 48 – NO. 11

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

AUGUST 2013

Operation Round Up® grant applications due Sept. 9

Organizations involved in community projects and charities are encouraged to apply for funds from Operation Round Up at this time. Completed grant applications are due in the Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) office by September 9.

Operation Round Up is a program adopted by RLEC headquartered in Red Lake Falls. members choosing to "round up" their monthly electric bill payment provide funds for this effort. Today 91 percent of RLEC members now choose to contribute pennies each month to enhance their communities.

Funds will be donated primarily to nonprofit organizations to help fund specific projects or programs. Since the program began in 1993, \$409,000 has been granted to community organizations and charities. Money is donated (2211003.06 Bruce Elseth) for the betterment of the community within the outside service area bound-

aries of RLEC.

The Red Lake Electric Trust Board of Directors determines grants. Board members are Patty Mickelson, Oklee; Van Swanson, Thief River Falls; Randy Knutson, Newfolden; Roger Johanneck and Bonnie Christians, Crookston.

To apply for Operations Round Up grants, organizations should contact the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068. A short application must (4506024.01 Myles O. and Janice G. Olson) be completed and submitted along with a financial statement from the organization. The grant application form is available on the Cooperative's Web site: www.redlakeelectric.com

For more information contact Roger Johanneck, general manager of RLEC, at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068. An application form is included on page 8.



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Local 4-Hers receive awards from Red Lake Electric

Each year, Red Lake Electric Cooperative sponsors awards for 4-H exhibitors at area county fairs.

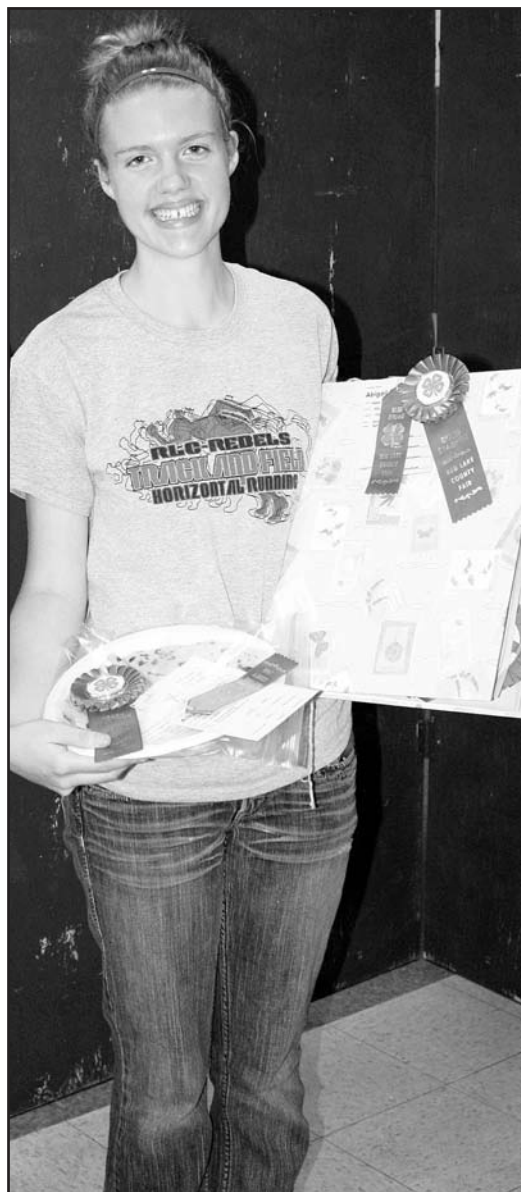
Pictured are 4-Hers who received awards at the Red Lake County Fair held June 28 through 30, the Pennington County Fair held July 17 through 21 and the Marshall County Fair held July 24 through 28.

Additional pictures appear on page 6.



Winning an award for Senior Showmanship in the swine project at the 2013 Marshall County Fair was Izeck Lunke of the New Maine 4-H Club. This award was sponsored by Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

Photo courtesy of Marshall County Extension.



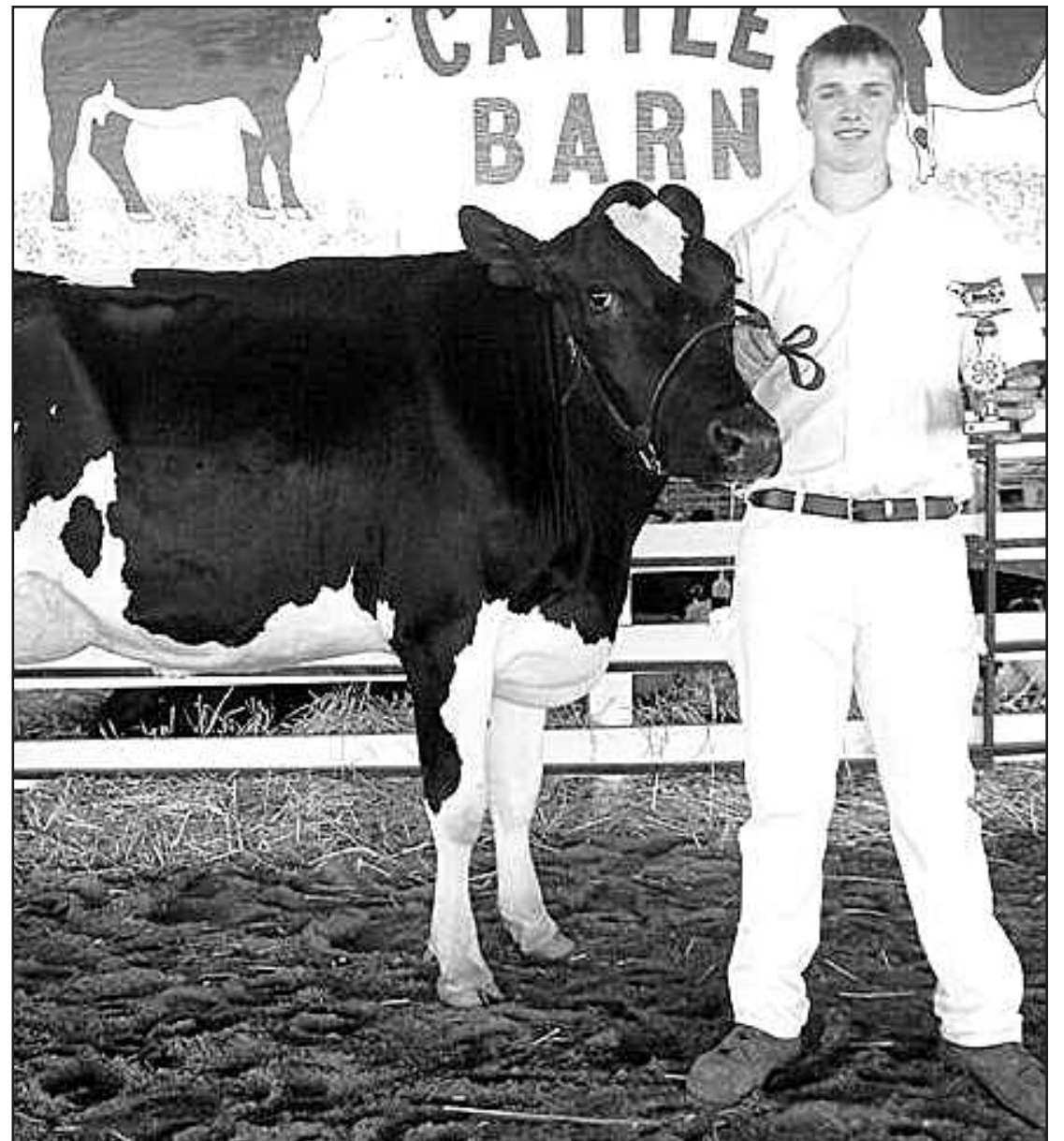
Happy-Go-Lucky 4-H member Abby Gerardy received an award from Red Lake Electric Cooperative at the 2013 Red Lake County Fair for her self-determined project. Abby is pictured with that project booklet which holds all of her awards from her 4-H projects over the years.

Photo courtesy of Oklee Herald.



Jacey Larson of the Steiner 4-H Club won the Beef Rate of Gain Award with the hereford heifer she entered in the 2013 Pennington County Fair. The animal's gain was 3.75 pounds per day. This was the 25th consecutive year for Red Lake Electric Cooperative to sponsor this award.

Photo courtesy of Thief River Falls Times.



Seth Rupprecht of Thief River Falls won the Dairy Rate of Production Award at the Pennington County Fair. During a 305-day lactation period, and being milked twice daily, his holstein cow produced 26,075 pounds of milk. Seth is an independent 4-H exhibitor. The award was sponsored by Red Lake Electric Cooperative for the 25th consecutive year.

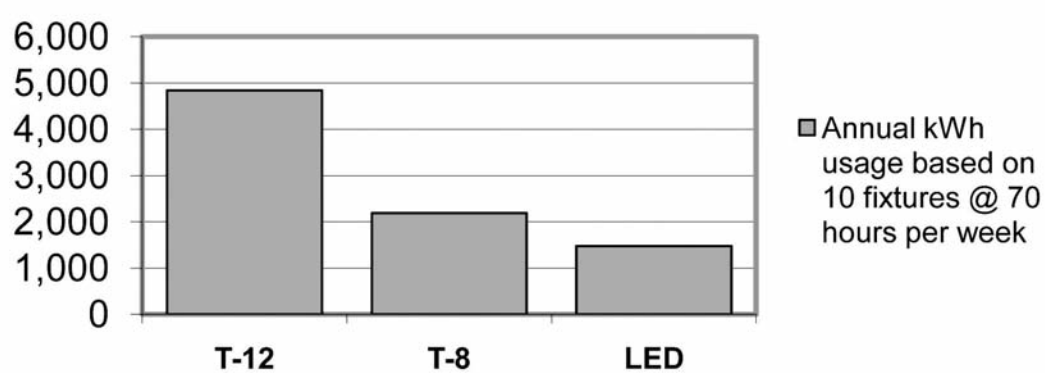
Photo courtesy of Thief River Falls Times.

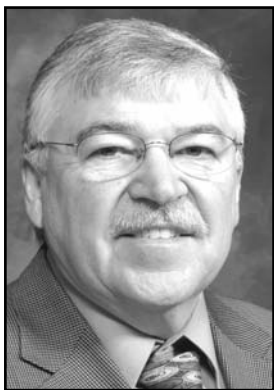
QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. (RLEC) will pay cash rebates to commercial and industrial customers for the installation of qualifying lighting equipment to replace inefficient light fixtures in existing buildings. The maximum rebate per member is \$15,000 and cannot exceed 75% of the project cost, including materials & labor. The chart below shows the energy savings advantage of replacing older style (T-12) fluorescent tube lighting with the new style (T-8) energy efficient 4 foot or 4 foot LED lamp fixture. Contact RLEC today and find out more about our commercial lighting retrofit rebate program.

4 foot Tube Lighting comparison.





Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



Dry summer helps recover from late spring.

Our crews have been able to make up some ground on a construction season that, like spring crop planting, was delayed because of winters slow transition to spring. The generally dry ground conditions throughout our service area have helped with our construction progress on a couple of fronts: the amount of work that we have accomplished and the areas that we have been able to work. River crossings, and sloughs that would be difficult to work in during a wet or even normal summer have been accessible for new construction and pole replacement work.

Our largest construction project this summer has been the installation of 4.5 miles of underground feeder lines for a new substation Minnkota is building in our service area near

Crookston. Four and half miles of new 3-phase underground cable will tie into existing lines that will connect to the "Gentilly Creek" substation that is located four (4621003.03 Della Burstad) and half miles east of U.S. Hwy 2. Also part of this project was construction of an overhead line crossing the Red Lake River.

Other work our crews have been busy with include:

- a tie line connecting circuits between the Morris Owen and Hazel Substation
- construction of a new feeder line out of the Morris Owen substation near Thief River Falls
- line moves for ditching in Pennington and Marshall County
- a road move project in Red Lake County
- service upgrades for new

home construction or grain bins added at existing service locations

-construction of new electric services to power grain bins, drain tile pumps and four new homes

In addition to construction and line maintenance projects, crews have had to tend to the periodic power outages that mother nature, animals and human activity send our way. All in all, the crews are busy and have been able to accomplish a great deal this summer, thanks to good working conditions throughout our service area. If you are considering a new electric service or an upgrade to an existing service, please contact us early in your planning stages so that we can better meet your request. Hope you have a great rest of the summer and a safe and bountiful harvest.



Report from the Office

by Shirley Bregier

Seems like summer has just started and already we are talking about back to school specials and winter heating costs. As we move into the heating season we, once again, ask those of you with off peak heating systems to read your meter and compare it with the reading on your electric bill. Occasionally after the meter has sat idle for a few months or breakers to heating systems are shut off the Automated Meter Reading device (AMR) fails to transmit meter readings upon start up. A simple check by you to compare the meter reading recorded on your bill to what is shown on the meter register will alert you to a faulty AMR device.

If you notice a difference in the reading on your meter compared to the reading on your electric bill, please notify our office and we will get your bill corrected and the AMR replaced. The reading used to calculate your monthly billing is recorded from the meter on the 10th of the month or the next closest date that we have received a reading from your meter.

Remember, if the AMR on your off peak meter isn't recording kWhs you will be paying full price for the electricity that you use to heat your home. Help us to make sure you are receiving the correct off-peak heating rate.

I also want to remind you that Red Lake Electric has been offering a new on line tool for managing your electric use and bill payment. Bill4U is available on our website www.redlakeelectric.com. Once you have your account set up you will have access to your monthly statements, your current balance and have the ability to make a payment on the date of your choice from your bank account. You can also use this tool to sign up for paperless billing. This is also great for members that are on our auto-pay program. You will be notified by e-mail when your electric bill is ready for viewing and also what your current bill amount is. You also have access to your usage history. Each time we receive a reading from your meter, it is recorded, along with the average high and low temperature for that

day. You are then able to make daily, monthly or yearly comparisons. It is a great tool for monitoring your electric usage even when you are away on vacation or if you are a winter traveler.

On another note, Red Lake Electric, along with several other electric cooperatives in Minnesota, has been charging sales tax on the cost to build a new electric service or upgrade their current electric service. As of July 1, 2013 the Minnesota statute that addresses sales tax on retail sales was amended to clarify that a payment made to an electric cooperative or public utility as a contribution in aid of construction is a contract for improvement to real property and is not a retail sale. This was our belief all along so we are happy that this was changed. This means that our members that (4710002.09 Jim Bechard) have paid this tax since August, 2012 will receive a refund of the sales tax they paid and that going forward we will not have to collect this tax.

Have a safe fall and harvest season!

Send your student to college with all the essentials—including electrical safety knowledge

Sending a child off to college can be a stressful time for parents—making sure their student has all the essentials to help prepare for a bright future. While shopping for the typical supplies to make new surroundings home-like and comfortable, give those students a bit of TLC. Teach them about electrical safety, and encourage them to share it with others.

Often-times students innocently plug in all of the college tools—study lamps, laptops, TVs, stereos, grooming and other electrical devices—unaware of the potential dangers. Safe Electricity urges parents to make sure their student is educated on safe appliance use, precautions against overloading outlets, and other potential electrical hazards.

In its most recent report, the National Fire Protection Association estimates that U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 3,570 fires in dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and barracks each year. The tragic results: an average of seven deaths, 54 injuries, and nearly \$30 million in direct property damage per year.

"The limited number of electric outlets in student rooms can tempt many to use multiple extension cords and power strips, which can cause cords to overheat, creating shock and fire hazards," warns Molly Hall, Safe Electricity Executive Director. "Student residences crammed with books, papers, and (5228001.02 LeRoy Skjerven) bedding can allow the smallest spark to quickly become a blaze."

Safety steps to prevent and reduce the risk of electrical fires

in student housing include:

Purchase and use only UL-rated electrical appliances and power cords. Avoid overloading extension cords, power strips, or outlets.

Use extension cords only on a temporary basis; they are not intended as permanent solutions.

Use power strips with an over-current protector that will shut off power automatically if there is too much current being drawn.

Never tack or nail an electrical cord to any surface or run cords across traffic paths or under rugs where they can be trampled or damaged.

Use the correct wattage light bulbs for lamps and fixtures. If no indication is on the product, do not use a bulb with more than 60 watts.

Use cooler, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) when possible.

Keep all electrical appliances and cords safely away from bedding, curtains, papers, and other flammable material.

Make sure outlets around sinks are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) before use.

Unplug small appliances when not in use and all electronics when away for extended periods.

Older wiring in student housing and apartments may not be able to handle the increased electrical demand of today's college student.

If use of an appliance frequently causes power to trip off, or if its power cord or the outlet feels hot, the appliance should be disconnected immediately and the condition reported to the

landlord or campus housing staff.

A fire escape plan is essential for every student. Whether apartment or dorm residents, make sure they know evacuation procedures and emergency exit locations in the event of a fire.

Emphasize to students that smoke detectors should never be disabled, and fire alarms should never be ignored or taken casually as a drill. If a fire alarm sounds, residents should calmly and quickly follow practiced procedures and immediately exit the building.

Apartment and dorm doors should be closed behind to prevent the spread of fire.

"Stress to students that in the event of a fire, follow safety procedures and get out of harm's way immediately," remarked Hall.

"Property and valuables can be replaced, but lives cannot."

For more fire and electrical safety information, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

Source: Safe Electricity

Closed Labor Day

In observance of Labor Day, Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Monday, September 2.

In case of an electrical outage or emergency call the Cooperative's after-hour phone number 218-253-2200.

Have a safe, enjoyable Labor Day weekend. If your weekend activities take you outdoors, remember to look up for overhead power lines if these activities are overhead.

NOTICE

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

Red Lake Electric Cooperative has contracted with RAM Utilities to test poles within the Cooperative's service area. The inspection will begin late August or early September.

Poles to be tested are on feeders 1 and 2 out of the Highland substation. In Pennington County this will include areas in Highland, Star, Cloverleaf, Goodridge and Reiner Townships. In Marshall County it will include areas of Grand Plain, Moylan and Espelie Townships. It will include Lee and Red Lake Townships in Beltrami County.

RAM Utilities will use ATV vehicles to travel from pole to pole. These vehicles will be equipped with Red Lake Electric signage to make them recognizable. If you have any questions concerning this pole inspection please call the Cooperative's office at 800-245-6068.



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.

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

(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. POSTMASTER, 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

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Recipe Corner



Apple Fritters

- 1-1/2 c. flour
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 beaten eggs
- 2/3 c. milk
- 1 Tbsp. salad oil
- 3 c. finely-chopped apples

Combine all ingredients together. Stir until all ingredients are moistened. Pour oil for frying into a heavy fry pan to depth of 2 inches. Heat to frying temperature. Drop batter by spoonful into hot oil. Cook until golden brown on both sides. Drain on paper towels. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Serve warm or cold.

Swedish Apple Pie (Quick and Easy)

- Sliced apples
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1-1/2 sticks butter
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 c. flour
- 1/2 c. nuts

Fill a pie plate 3/4 full of sliced apples. Mix 1 Tbsp. sugar and cinnamon and sprinkle over apples. Next melt butter. Add sugar, egg, flour and nuts. Mix this well. It will be thick. Pour over apples and bake. Serve with ice cream or whipped cream.

Pan Size: Pie plate
Time: 50-55 minutes
Oven Temp: 350°

Apple Turnovers

- 5 c. flour
- 2-1/4 c. Crisco
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 pkg. yeast
- 1/4 c. warm Carnation milk
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 c. Carnation milk
- Filling:**
- 12 apples, peeled and cut up
- 1-1/2 c. sugar
- 1 tsp. tapioca
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. flour

Mix flour, Crisco and salt like pie crust. Dissolve yeast in warm Carnation milk. Beat eggs, add Carnation milk and softened yeast. Mix with flour, Crisco mixture and leave overnight in refrigerator. Roll out and cut in squares or with top of coffee tin. Fill with apple filling. Cook all filling ingredients and stir over low heat until apples are done. Spoon one Tbsp. filling on round crust, fold over and deal edges. Bake. Dribble powdered sugar frosting over warm turnovers. **Yield:** 3 dozen. These can be frozen either baked or unbaked.

Oven Temp: 375°
Time: 25 minutes

Peach Cake Dessert

- 1 yellow or white cake mix
- 1 pkg. vanilla instant pudding
- 1 c. milk
- 1 c. sour cream
- 4 to 5 fresh peeled peaches
- 1 - 8 oz. ctn. Cool Whip

Mix and bake cake mix according to instructions on box. Mix pudding with milk, then blend in sour cream. Spread over cooled cake. Slice peaches over cake. Last, spread Cool Whip over all. Refrigerate for several hours.

Apple Crumble

- 6 med. apples
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 2 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1/2 c. flour
- 1/4 c. brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon (or nutmeg)
- 1/4 c. butter

Slice apples into buttered pie plate. Sprinkle sugar and lemon juice over apples. Combine remaining ingredients, cutting with knives or pastry blender. Put this mixture on top of apples and pat down. Bake.

Pan size: Pie Plate
Temp: 350°
Time: 45 minutes

Fresh Blueberry Pie

- 1 c. blueberries
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 c. water
- 2 rounded Tbsp. cornstarch
- Juice of one lemon or 2 Tbsp. real lemon
- 3 c. blueberries
- Baked 9-inch pie shell

Cook and stir 1 c. blueberries, sugar, water, cornstarch and lemon juice until sugar dissolves. Simmer 10 to 15 minutes on low heat. Cool slightly. Mix with 3 c. blueberries. Pour into pie shell. Chill 3 to 4 hours before serving. Store in refrigerator.

Peaches and Cream Pie

- 5 peaches cut in half or one lg. can peaches, drained
- 3/4 c. sugar
- 3 rounded Tbsp. flour
- 3/4 c. cream
- 8 or 9 inch unbaked pie shell

Preheat oven. Mix flour and sugar and line pie crust with 1/2 the mixture. Put in peaches cut side down. Sprinkle rest of mixture over peaches. Top with cream and sprinkle with cinnamon. Bake at 450° for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to 350°, and bake 30 to 35 minutes longer.

Pan Size: Pie plate
Time: 10, 30 to 35 minutes
Oven Temp: 450°, 350°

Don't undersize electric circuits or extension cords

When selecting the wire size needed for a circuit, or using an extension cord to power a heater, motor or other device, size makes a big difference. If the conductor is undersized, it creates voltage drop that can shorten the life of your equipment, and waste energy.

Branch circuits should be sized to limit voltage drop to 2%, when measured from the electric service panel to the specific appliance or equipment. Voltage drop occurs any time electricity travels through a wire. If the wire size is small or the circuit run is long, the voltage will drop significantly from one end of the wire to the other. Exceeding 2% can cause motors to overheat, and lowers the performance of heating and lighting devices, as shown below.

A 5% Voltage Drop Results In:

- 10% loss of heat in any heating appliance
- 17% loss of light from an incandescent lamp
- 5% increase in current to a motor (causing energy waste)
- 25% increase in motor heating (causing shortened motor life)

So how do you know the right size wire to use for a long circuit run, or the effect of running a long extension

cord to an appliance? The easiest way is to use reference tables that do the calculations for you. Using the length of the circuit run (in feet) and the size of the electric load required by the appliance (in amps) there are numeric tables that provide the minimum size conductor needed to limit the voltage drop to 2%. One source is the Agricultural Wiring Handbook. This book covers topics beyond just farm wiring, because it includes 29 (7127005.01 Maurice Brault) wire selection tables. Both copper and aluminum conductor tables are included, for electric loads from 5 to 400 amps, and circuit runs up to 2,000 feet.

To learn more about sizing circuits, talk with an experienced electrician or majoe supplier of electrical wiring materials. To order the handbook contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative at 253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

Source: Rural Electricity Resource Council.



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Auto-Owners Insurance

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. Operating Report

MONTHLY COMPARISON

	JUNE 2012	JUNE 2013
Total Revenue	\$ 850,627	\$ 829,289
Total Margins	\$ (50,464)	\$ (28,654)
Cost of Power	\$ 662,734	\$ 638,497
KWH's Purchased	7,793,921	7,331,341
Capital Credits Paid to Estates ..	9,440	\$ 17,066

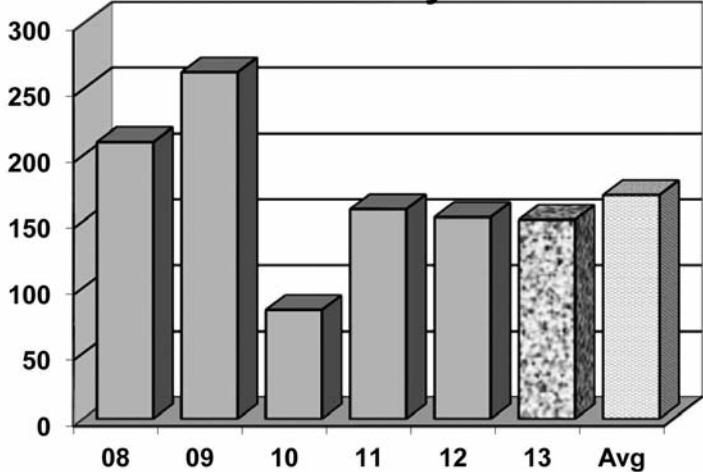
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

	JUNE 2012	JUNE 2013
Total Revenue	\$6,970,368	\$ 7,520,077
Total Margins	\$ 666,854	\$ 1,098,276
Cost of Power	\$4,936,014	\$ 5,063,686
KWH's Purchased	68,265,419	74,094,343
New Service Connections	13	12
Customers Served	5,211	5,235
Capital Credits Paid to Estates ..	63,439	\$ 65,472
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,323	2,3243
Underground	249	256

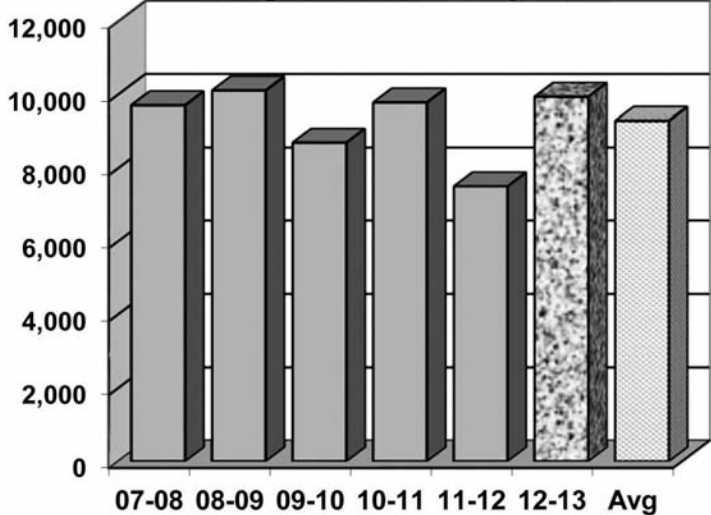
DEGREE DAYS

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 June 20 to July 19



Year To Date August 20 to July 19



From the Mail Bag

Dear RLEC,
Thank you for sponsoring the beef rate of gain trophy at the Pennington County Fair.

Jacey Larson
Steiner 4-H Club
Pennington County 4-H

Dear RLEC,
Thank you for sponsoring my champion breeding ewe trophy and my top rate of gain trophy at the Pennington County Fair.

Samantha Larson
Steiner 4-H Club
Pennington County 4-H

Dear RLEC,
Thank you for sponsoring the beef herdsmanhsip award at the Pennington County Fair. We all worked hard to get the stall and animals clean. The fair was great and we're excited for next year!

Sincerely,
Lydia Nelson, Noah, Alanis
and Malena Rupprecht
Pennington County 4-H

Dear RLEC,
Thank you for sponsoring the herdsmanhsip award for sheep.

Lauryn & Katelynn
Nordine
The Highlandng 4-H Club

Dear RLEC,
Thank you for sponsoring the herdsmanhsip award for poultry.

Sean & Kristin Farris
Lauryn & Katelynn
Nordine
Highlandng 4-H Club

Dear RLEC,
Thank you for the sponsorship of dairy herdsmanhsip at the Pennington County Fair. We take pride in our exhibit and appreciate the recognition.

Sincerely,
Highlandng Dairy 4-H

Dear RLEC,
Thank you for sponsoring the goat herdsmanhsip award. I love what I do and can't wait for next year!

Thanks,
Erin Wayne
Pennington County 4-H

Dear RLEC,
Thank you so much for donating to the Pennington County 4-H herdsmanhsip program. The kids are excited to receive the medals they have worked so hard to get. Thank you for making it so special.

Emily Bakke,
Herdsmanhsip Coordinator

Dear RLEC,
Thank you to the boys for all of their hard work toward power restoration following the July 12 storm.

Colleen Hoffman
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC,
Friday night, July 12 brought us a snapped transformer pole with five large trees on top. Lots of damage in our area. We started cutting and a little more than 24 hours after the storm - we had power! What a great crew - many thanks.

Jan & Dean Lawrenz
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC,
Thank you for the fast service we were given in restoring our power after the July 12 storm that hit Thief River Falls area. Even after a long night and day of work the men had a smile and were very pleasant with an eye on safety. It is fun to watch such excellent workers.

Sincerely,
John & Renée Erickson
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC,
I want to thank you for selecting me to be a recipient of your scholarship. It was truly an honor to receive the award. For me personally, it was really hard to be granted any local scholarship because I am not an athlete; thank you so much for investing in me and my future. It truly means the world.

Bailey Swick
Class of 2013
Lincoln High School
Thief River Falls

Self-Inking Stamps

Available at the Gazette

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THE GAZETTE

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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Red Lake County celebrates multiple Century Farms

By Heather Blodgett

The farm of George and Diana Proulx has been named a century farm for 2013. The farm, located a few miles south of Red Lake Falls, has actually been in Diana's family for 102 years.

Napoleon Delorme, Diana's great-grandfather, purchased 320 acres in 1911 to establish the farm. He gave that land to his son, Eldege, as a wedding present in 1913 when Eldege married Lena Violette. A house and granary were built in 1921 for the family, which included four children: Elise, Emery, Lea and Ernest. The couple farmed corn, barley, oats, hay and wheat. They also had dairy cattle from which they sold milk and cream.

In 1943, Emery was united in marriage to Cecilia Trudeau and the couple took over the farming operation. The couple had seven children: Emily, Diana, Evelyn, Karen, Allan, Stephen and Laurie. More land was purchased in the early 1960s to add acreage to the farm. In March of 1964, a tractor accident took Emery's life. Later that year Cecilia moved to Ritzville, Washington with Karen, Allan, Stephen and Laurie. She married George Suave and they had a son, Kevin.

Diana married George



George and Diana Proulx

Proulx in 1962. After Emery's death in 1964, the couple moved to the home on the farm that Diana grew up in and began farming. Their first crop was in 1965 on the farm's 180 tillable acres. A few years later, in 1968, they purchased the farm. Canola, barley and wheat were the main products while beef cattle, hogs, chickens and rabbits became part of the operation over the years. In the mid-1970s the couple chose to sell their livestock and focus solely on grains.

George cleared the many trees and rocks from the pastures himself in order to make fields. More

land was also added. Currently the farm boasts 1280 acres of land, all tillable. "We broke up a lot of land," says George. "That little Cat was busy for years." Now, half of that is planted with soybeans and wheat while the other half is rented out.

The couple also added to the buildings on the farm. While the house, barn, and granary are original, two pole sheds and 12 grain bins were built since the Proulx family moved in. They also converted the barn into a shop by lowering the hayloft and remodeling the inside to house George's Arctic Inn, a small engine operation.

cont. on page 5.

By Heather Blodgett

Over 200 people attended a celebration in late July to recognize that the farm of Bruce and Pam Columbus was named a Century Farm in 2013. The couple held a family reunion for the celebration that included horseback rides, a piñata, bounce house, bonfire and family softball game. Old fashioned games like the three-legged race, wheelbarrow race and pie eating contest were also part of the fun. They even rented the city pool for the event and Bruce hauled everyone the short distance to the pool and back on a hay wagon pulled by a 1950s 9N Ford Tractor.

The farm became a century farm this year as Bruce's grandparents, Walter and Mae Columbus, bought the farm in 1913. That couple had eight children, all of whom were born in the house on the farm. One of those children, Bernard, purchased the farm from his parents in 1953. He farmed small grains and beef cattle while also holding a position as a letter carrier for the United States Postal Service. Bernard had four children with his wife, Nathalie, before she passed away. He was then remarried and had five more children with his wife, Audrey. The youngest son of those chil-



Bruce and Pam Columbus

dren was Bruce.

Bruce began farming the land in 1983 but did not live on the property at that time. Bruce and Pam were married in 1987 and they purchased the farm in 1996, but did not move into the home on the property until 1999. They still live in that home today, which is original to the farm. During the festivities, Bruce and Pam were presented with a needle-point plaque that shows the three generation owners of the farm and the years they occupied it.

As the couple is employed full-time off of the farm, Bruce as a service technician for Titan Machinery in Crookston,

Minn., and Pam is in data processing for Unity Bank North in Red Lake Falls, Minn., they look at the farm as a lifestyle more than a business. Bruce grows wheat and soybeans on small parcels of the land and mostly uses equipment from the 1950s and 1960s, which he explains can present a challenge when something breaks down as many of the parts for his equipment isn't available anymore. "The farm is not to make a living," explains Bruce, "But it's a hobby, a way of life, a way to continue the traditions. We feel privileged to carry on the tradition."

cont. on page 5.



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Proulx Century Farm continued

While George always worked off the farm at various jobs in the winter months, he owned and operated that business from 1971 to 2003 selling and repairing snowmobiles, lawn mowers and mini bikes.

"My job was cows and kids," exclaimed Diana as there were seven children born into the union: Randy, Beth, Colleen, Becky, Susan, Vickie and Brian. "I've always worked in the field right alongside him," she says. The children also helped on the farm while growing up and presently, their son,

Randy, continues to farm with them.

"We've had a lot of fun here," says Diana with a smile. "It's a great place to raise a family. It's a great life. Home is good and there are so many memories here, especially of the kids playing around on the farm." One of the memories Diana shared is of the many times they took the children out to the field to pick rocks. Diana tells with a chuckle, that one time they picked too many rocks that the wagon they were using to haul the stones broke!

"It will never be sold by us," says George of the land. The property is very

important to the family. "I did what I intended to do. I have one quarter of land for each of the kids and some for the grandkids," he says of the legacy he wants to leave to his family.

"It's a good life," George says of farming. "You can look back on it and see what you did. You can see the land you cleared and what you've accomplished through life. I've fulfilled my dream."

George and Diana, who are the longest inhabitants of the farm, plan to erect a sign near the gravel road by their home to commemorate the Delorme/Proulx Century Farm.



Columbus Century Farm continued

The couple's two daughters, Cassie, a graduate of the University of Minnesota Duluth and enrolled in a graduate level pharmacy program, and Breanna, a sophomore at Bemidji State University, enjoy the farming lifestyle as well. "Both of the girls like to help out on the farm with the haying and driving combine for the wheat harvest," says Pam, "They've been haying since they were little. They must like it because they keep coming back!" she says with a laugh. The hay is baled into the old fashioned small, square, bales and according to Bruce when the girls have been haying, "They've had several people stop to ask if

they can help throw a few bales for old times' sake," he says.

While part of the land is farmed by the family and some is also rented out, the family enjoys the rest of the property in many ways. Pam loves animals, especially horses. Currently they have four horses, one dog, and several cats. Many trails exist on the land they use for riding horses, four-wheelers or cross country skiing. Bruce enjoys gardening and a large vegetable garden is put in every year. He also uses the land for hunting. As the farm is bordered by the Clearwater River, fishing and canoeing are also popular activities. Both Bruce and Pam agree that their farm is in a great place. "The location

is perfect," says Pam, "It has everything, river, woods, farmland, and it's close to town." At just a mile outside of Red Lake Falls, Pam can even come home and ride horse or cross country ski during her lunch hour.

"We feel very fortunate to be able to carry on the tradition of this century farm," explains Bruce, "It has meant a lot to us and I think it has meant a lot to other people too. Some people push aside tradition and I think it's important to have those traditions and pass them down through the generations as my father did to me and his father to him." Pam echoes that sentiment, "It's a great way of life."



Electrical safety around grain bins

By Amber Bentley

Working around grain bins creates hazards that are often overlooked by even the most seasoned farm hands. Always keep (5309003.02 Ruby H. Schroeder) these safety tips in mind:

Suffocation/engulfment

Entrapment can happen in a second when dealing with grain, which often is compared to quick sand. This is leading cause of death in storage bins.

Do not enter grain bins during active loading and unloading times.

Never work alone.

Make sure to wear proper safety equipment.

Fires/explosions

When grain dust accumulates, it can sometimes create the right conditions to spark a fire.

These fires are difficult to stop and usually end with a large explosion.

Be sure your ventilation system is working properly.

Clean regularly to keep grain dust accumulations to a minimum.

Do not smoke or ignite any other open flames while in the grain bin.

Toxic atmospheres

Mold, fungi, and chemical fumes from decayed grains can create a deadly atmosphere.

Store fully dried grain at the proper moisture.

Wear a mask or filter respirator to limit the amount of direct contact to the fumes.

Try to keep animal and insect infestations to a minimum.

Machine malfunctions

Machines also pose deadly risks, including amputation, entanglement, and electrocution.

Do not operate these machines while inside the bins.

Ensure that all equipment is properly guarded.

Be on the lookout for over-

head power lines.

Check for frayed cables.

Always wear safety belts or some form of protection.

Sources:

U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration: Grain Handling

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Environmental Health

& Safety: Grain Bin Safety

National AG Safety

Database: Grain Storage Safety

Amber Bentley writes on

consumer and cooperative

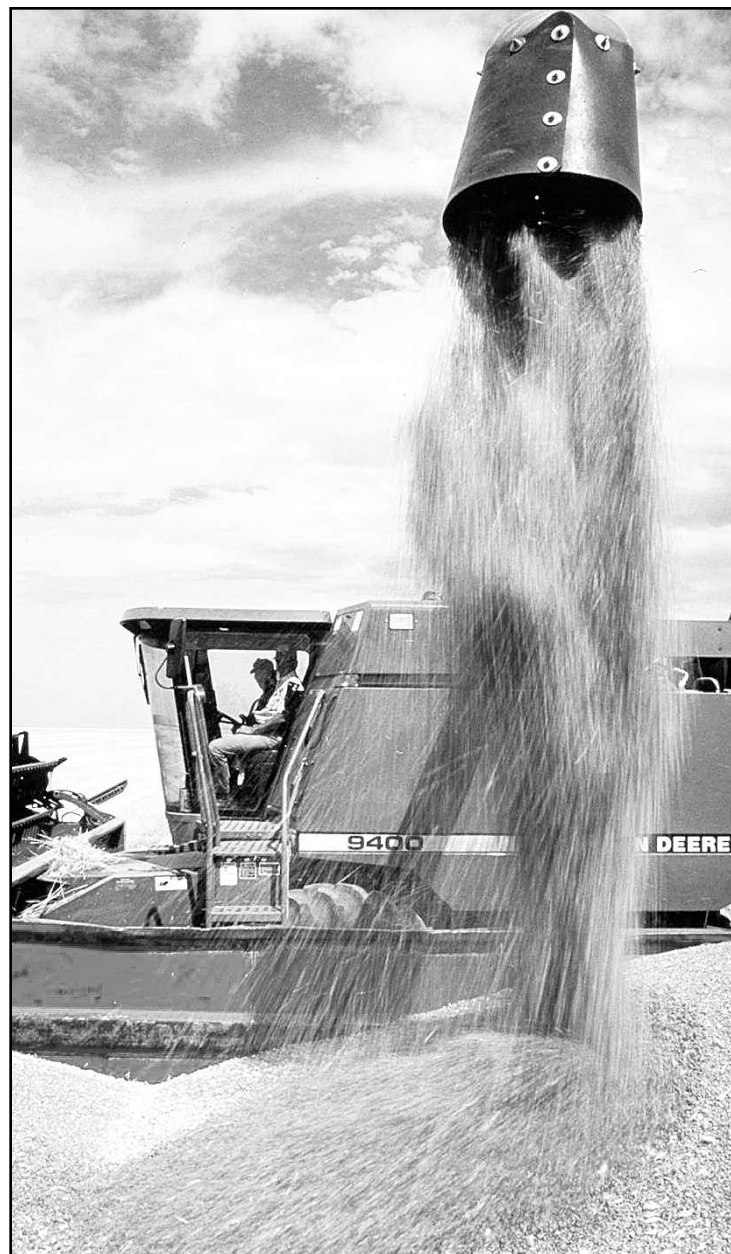
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Grain bins can be dangerous places to work, but proper precautions can help keep everyone safe.

Source: USDA

HERE'S HOW

Said the little red rooster, "Gosh all hemlock-things are tough. Seems that worms are getting scarcer, and I cannot find enough. What's become of all those fat ones is a mystery to me. There were thousands through that rainy spell-but now, where can they be?"

The old black hen who heard him didn't grumble or complain. She had gone through lots of dry spells; she had lived through floods of rain. So she flew up on the grindstone, and gave her claws a whet, as she said, "I've never seen the time there were no worms to get."

She picked a new and undug spot; the earth was hard and firm. The little rooster jeered, "New ground? That? No place for a worm." The old black hen just spread her feet, she dug both fast and free. "I must go to the worms," she said. "The worms won't come to me."

The rooster vainly spent his day, through habit, by the ways where fat worms had passed in squads back in the rainy days. When nightfall found him supperless, he growled in accents rough: "I'm hungry as a fowl can be. Conditions sure are tough."

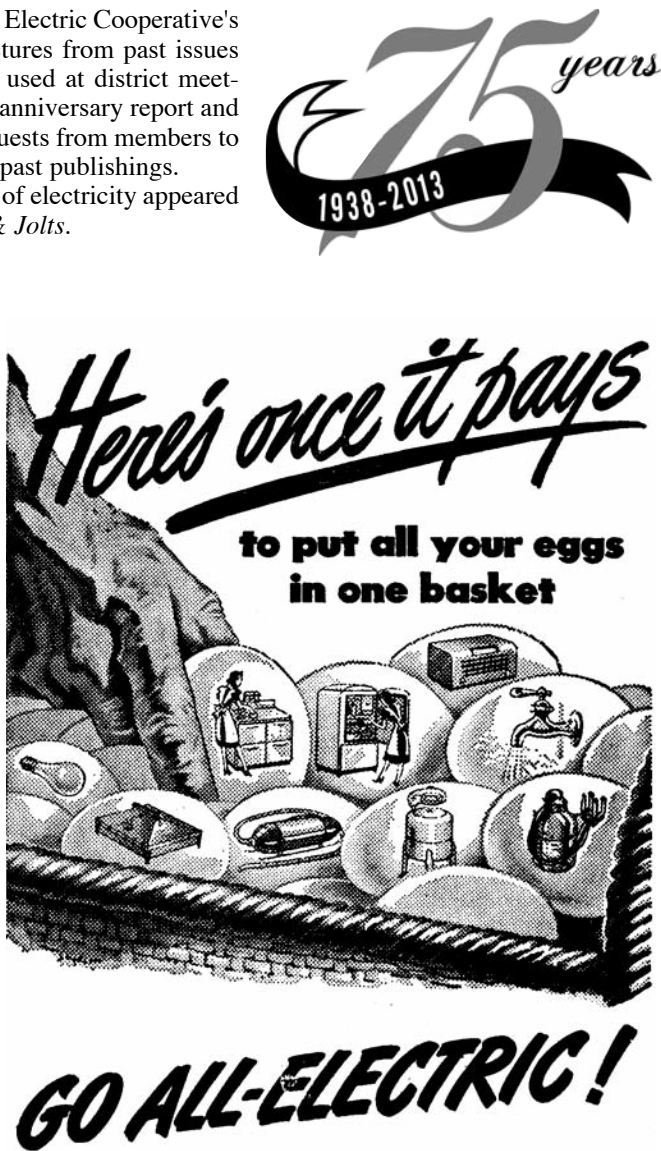
He turned then to the black hen and said, "It's worse with you, for you're not only hungry, but you must be tired too. I rested while I watched for worms so I feel fairly perk, but how are you, without worms too, and after all that work?"

The old black hen hopped to her perch, and dropped her eyes in sleep, and murmured in a drowsy tone, "Young man, hear this and weep: I'm full of worms and happy, for I've dined both long and well; the worms were there as always, BUT I HAD TO DIG LIKE HELL."

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Informational Web Sites

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

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



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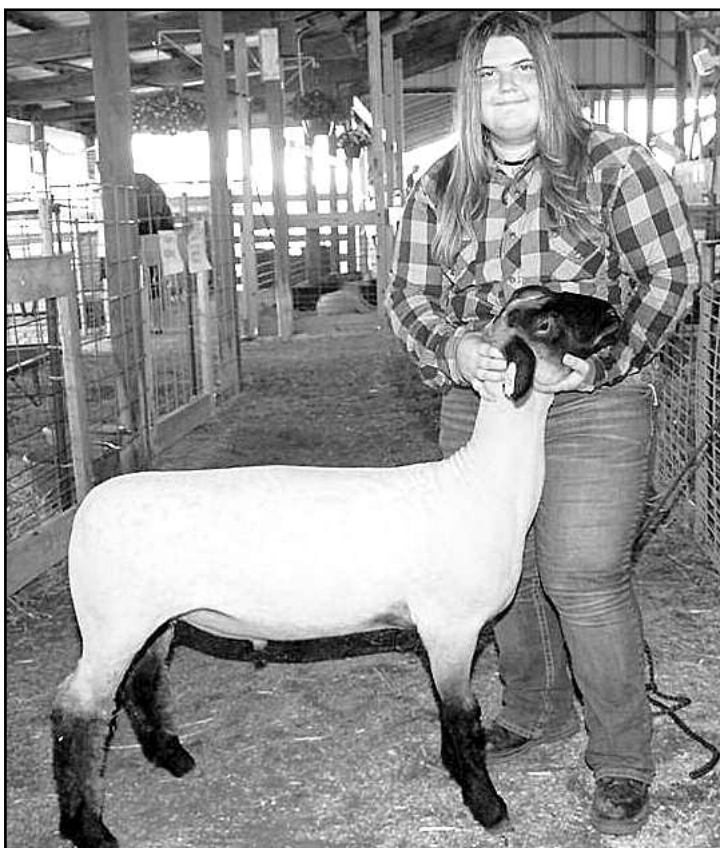
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Fair pictures continued from front page



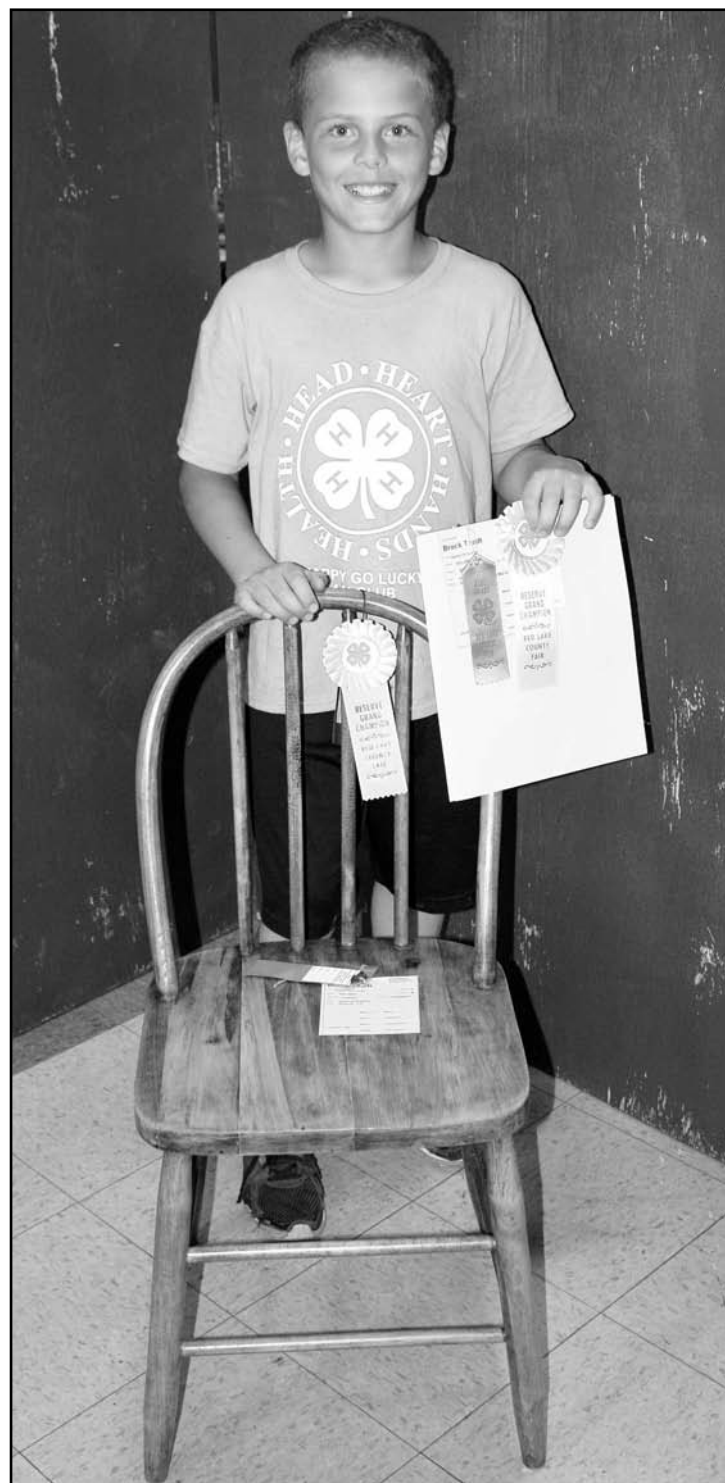
Taylor Bushelle of the Garnes Go Getters 4-H Club received two awards from Red Lake Electric Cooperative at the 2013 Red Lake County Fair. She received cash awards for her horse and veterinary science projects. She received several grand champion awards that she displays.

Photo courtesy of the Oklee Herald.



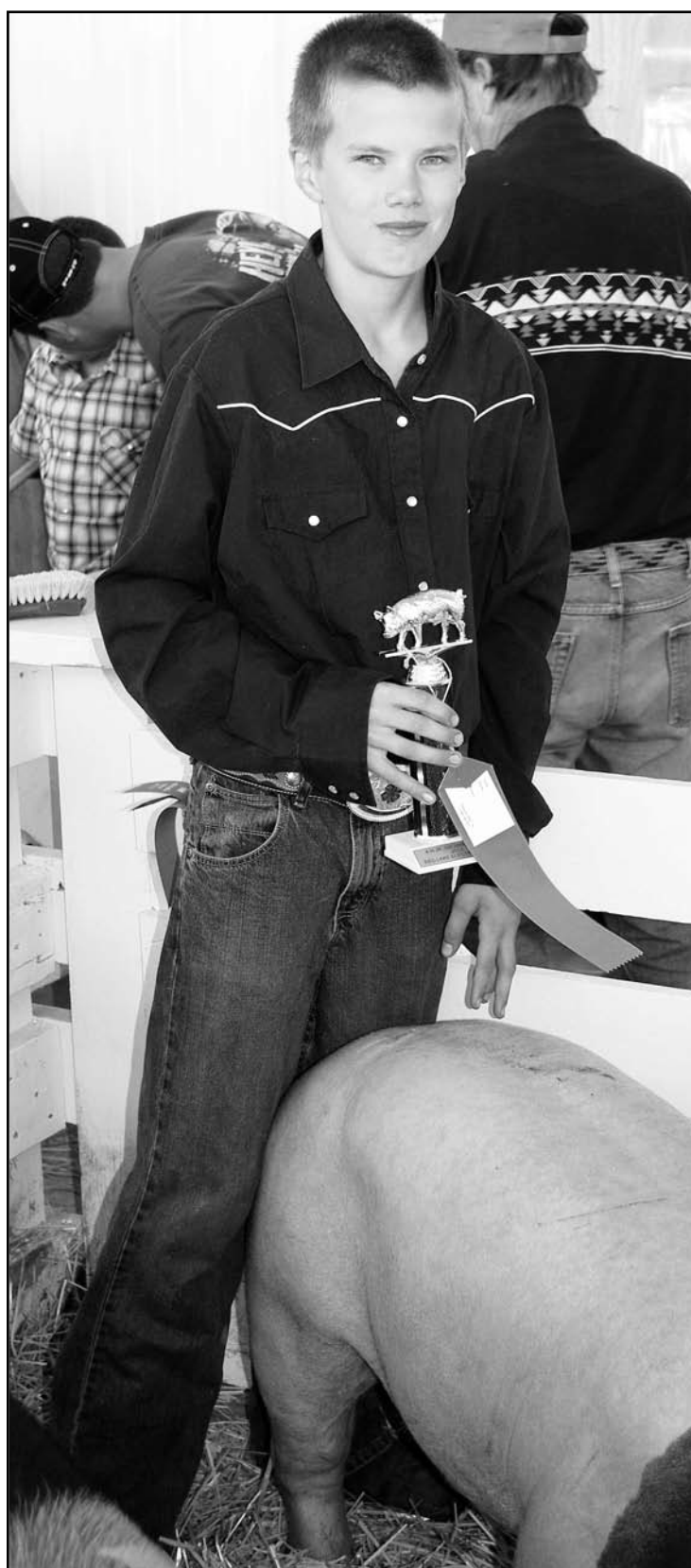
Samantha Larson of the Steiner 4-H Club won the Rate of Gain Award with this sheep at the 2013 Pennington County Fair. Red Lake Electric Cooperative has sponsored this award for 25 years.

Photo courtesy of the Thief River Falls Times.



Happy Go Lucky 4-H member Brock Tvedt received an award from Red Lake Electric Cooperative at the 2013 Red Lake County Fair for his rabbit exhibit. Brock is pictured with his Champion shop project. Not pictured and receiving an award from Red Lake Electric Cooperative at the Red Lake County Fair was Tanisha Srynsky of the Garnes Go Getter 4-H Club. She received a cash award for her project.

Photo courtesy of the Oklee Herald.



Jayce Lizakowski of the McCrea 4-H Club was the Champion Junior Showman in the swine project at the 2013 Marshall County Fair. He received an award from Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

Photo courtesy of the Marshall County Extension.



Jacob Solie of the Huot Hustlers 4-H Club received a cash award from Red Lake Electric Cooperative for his computer project at the 2013 Red Lake County Fair. He is pictured with his champion consumer education exhibit.

Photo courtesy of the Oklee Herald.

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Winning an award for the grand champion breeding ewe at the 2013 Pennington County Fair was Samantha Larson of the Steiner 4-H Club. The award was sponsored by Red Lake Electric Cooperative. *Photo courtesy of the Thief River Falls Times.*

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