

# Wolts 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. 50 - NO. 10

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

AUGUST 2015



Bailey Culkins of the Happy Go Lucky 4-H Club received awards for top rabbit and sheep exhibitor at the 2015 Red Lake County Fair. Both awards were sponsored by Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Photo courtesy of Oklee Herald

## Operation Round Up® Grant Applications due Tuesday, September 8th.

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 Tuesday, September 8, 2015.

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 94% of RLEC members now choose to contribute pennies each month to enhance their com-

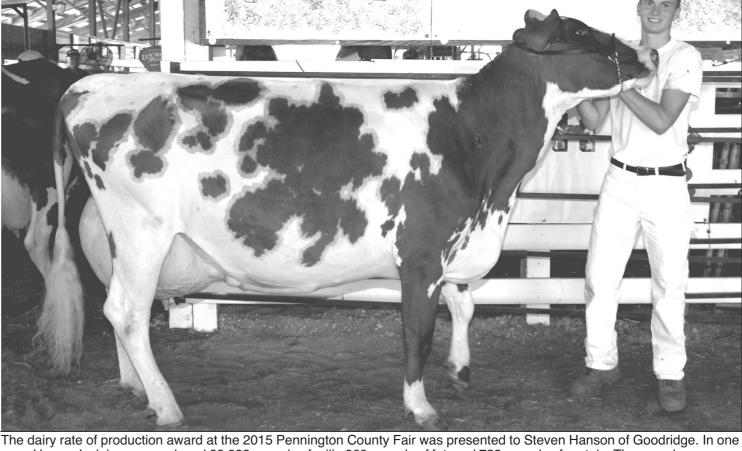
Funds will be donated primarily to nonprofit organizations to help fund specific projects or programs. Since the program began in 1993, \$454 thousand has been granted to community organizations and charities. Money is donated for the betterment of the commu-



nity within the outside service area boundaries of RLEC.

The Red Lake Electric Trust Board of Directors determines grants. Board members are Patty Mickelson, Oklee; Van Swanson, Thief River Falls; Tishara Melcher, Middle River; 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 be completed and submitted along with a financial statement



year, Hanson's dairy cow produced 22,983 pounds of milk, 869 pounds of fat, and 722 pounds of protein. The award was sponsored by (536003.03 Alan & Rose Bruggeman) Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Photo courtesy of Thief River Falls Times

Minnkota's environmental track record

Best available power

Minnkota meets or exceeds

all current environmental

compliance requirements at its

generation facilities. About

\$425 million has been invested

in emission-control projects at

the Minnkota-operated Milton

R. Young Station during the last decade. The result at the

coal-based plant has been sig-

nificant reductions in sulfur

dioxide (95 percent), nitrogen

oxide (60 percent) and mercu-

industry leader in wind energy

for more than a decade. In

2002, the cooperative built the

first commercial-scale, utility-

owned wind turbine in the

state of North Dakota.

Minnkota's electric generation

capacity comes from wind -

one of the highest percentages

in the nation. Minnkota is a

30 percent of

Currently,

Minnkota has been an

ry (60 percent) emissions.

Wind energy leader

plant technology

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

Page 2 Manager's Comments Report from the office

Feature of the Month: The Maijala Century Farm

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Page 8 Operation Round Up Grant Application Form ACH Promotion

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-

#### former recipient of the U.S. Department of Energy's Wind 2168 or 800-245-6068. Energy Cooperative of the Year.

Robust energy-efficiency programs Minnkota and its members have an established track

record of encouraging residen-

tial and business consumers to

use energy wisely. Since 2010,

energy efficiency and conservation program for its participating Minnesota distribution cooperatives and associated municipals. These utilities annually reduce their electricity sales by at least 1.5 percent through incentive-based and programs. education Collectively, the group recently saved its 140 millionth kilowatt-hour (kWh).

Minnkota has administered an

**Innovative** demand response program

Minnkota operates one of the most advanced demand response programs in the nation. Beginning in 1977, the demand response program is voluntary for consumers who allow Minnkota to interrupt electric heaters and other loads in exchange for a discounted retail electric rate. This capability Minnkota to more efficiently manage its existing power resources and avoid the need to acquire new generating resources that would carry a very high cost.

The program is popular with about 50,000 consumers participating. Loads most commonly involved in the program are dual-fuel heating systems, water heaters, storage heaters and commercial loads

## Local 4-Hers receive awards from Red Lake **Electric Cooperative**

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

Pictured are 4-Hers who received awards at the Red Lake County Fair held June 26 through 28, Pennington County Fair held July 15 through 10 and the Marshall County Fair held

July 22 through 26. Not pictured received awards sponsored by Red Lake Electric Cooperative at the 2015 Red Lake County Fair for demonstrations are: Jack Dodson, Hayden Shjulstad, Paige Olson, Bailey Culkins, Jacob Solie, Cendra Rondorf, Akayla Rondorf, Nick Solie, Sidney Olson and Matt Weiss.

Pictures continued on page five.

backup generators. When necessary, nearly megawatts (MW) in the summer and 350 MW in the winter can be interrupted by Minnkota.

## Final EPA carbon rules to burden co-op members

## North Dakota has second-most stringent CO2 goal

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized regulations Aug. 3 to limit carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from power plants - a move that will dramatically reshape how America generates and uses electricity, if the rules sur-vive legal challenges.

President Obama announced the rule, referred to as the Clean Power Plan, requiring a 32 percent cut in CO2 emissions nationwide by 2030, compared to 2012 levels. The EPA determined different targets each state has to meet in order to achieve the overall national reduction goal.

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Red Lake Electric Cooperative's wholesale power provider, generates all of its electricity in North Dakota, which has the nation's secondmost stringent state reduction goal at 45 percent. This is a steep increase from the 11 percent goal the EPA originally proposed for North Dakota in June 2014. Minnkota and others in the state's energy industry are currently working to understand the rationale behind more than quadrupling the requirement without providing notice.

An initial review of the rule indicates the established CO2 reduction target likely cannot be met without some North Dakota (2730007.00 Robert Biorgaard) coal facilities being shut down or operating at significantly reduced levels. Closing plants would strand hundreds of millions of dollars in investment, a burden that would be carried by electric consumers in the region.

"The EPA's final rule has the potential to substantially impact local communities that depend on reliable, low-cost power generated from North Dakota's seven coal-based power plants," said Mac McLennan, Minnkota president and CEO. "While we are still reviewing and analyzing this 1,560-page rule, it is clear that electric rates in Minnesota and North Dakota will be affected.'

Minnkota is concerned about the regulation of CO2 because its primary source of electric generation is the Milton R. Young Station, a two-unit coal-based power plant located near Center, N.D. The Young Station provides reliable, cost-effective electricity for more than 128,000 retail consumers, including many of the region's homes, farms, schools and businesses. In addition to coal, 30 percent Minnkota's generation capacity comes from wind and another 10 percent comes from

Minnkota provides wholesale electricity for member cooperatives in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. The carbon reduction goal for Minnesota is 42 percent, although it remains to be seen how that will impact

Minnkota. Since the rule was originally proposed last year, it has drawn strong criticism from utilities, states and business interests. That opposition will translate into significant legal challenges in the coming months and years. At least 16 states have already indicated that they will enter into a lawsuit with the EPA.

In the meantime, state officials will have until September 2018 to submit a final plan to the EPA identifying what each individual power producer must do to meet the goal. Significant CO2 reductions would need to be achieved by the start of the compliance period in 2022. The strict timeline will require utilities to make irreversible, long-term decisions and investments within the next few years. Until that happens, the total impact to Minnkota, its members and end-use consumers remains difficult to quantify.

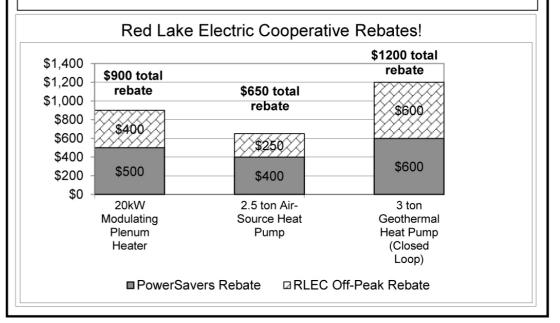
States will have three primary compliance options: 1) Improve coal plant heat-rate efficiency, 2) Replace coal with natural gas plants and 3) Increase the use of renewables and nuclear power. These options fail to take into consideration the unique characteristics of each state and its available resources. They also provide no credit to companies, like Minnkota, that were early

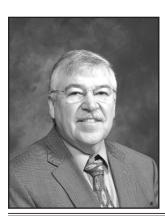
adopters of renewable energy. 'Minnkota supports a balanced approach to developing our nation's energy policy that carefully considers reliability, affordability and environmental goals," McLennan said. "By enacting this rule, the EPA has given itself a new role in dictating energy policy, determining how we generate electricity and, ultimately, how our consumers use electricity.

## **QUICK TAKES**

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Red Lake Electric Cooperative promotes the use of electric heat by offering rebates to customers who install new equipment that are qualifying products. PowerSavers HVAC rebates are based per unit with the exception of the ground source heat pump rebate which is based per ton. Red Lake Electric's Off-Peak incentive will receive \$20 per kW on electric heating equipment, \$100 per ton on air-source heat pumps and \$200 per ton on ground source heat pumps. Call us today at 1-800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168 if you have any questions on how to qualify for rebates





## Manager's **Comments**

by Roger Johanneck



## Excessive straight-line winds cause damage to power lines, homes and property

The August 12 wind storm that blew through Red Lake Electric's service territory created problems and power outages for many. All toll, about 1,700 of Red Lake Electric member accounts experienced service interruption from this wind storm. The majority of damage occurred from West of Thief River Falls eastward to Goodridge and north towards Middle River.

Unfortunately, the damage toll was not limited to Red Lake Electrics' power lines. Homes, barns, sheds and personal property were damaged from the excessive flat winds and fallen trees.

Service interruptions lasted about 27 hours total; starting Wednesday shortly before 5 P.M. and the last service was re-energized 7:45 P.M. on Thursday. Repair work continued for a few days on poles and other equipment that only got a temporary fix in order to get power flowing again. Electric system problems from storms like this have a way of surfacing again. Broken branches that remained harmless during the storm will sometimes later make their way on the power line and create a blink or possibly another outage.

All toll, 25 poles were broken by trees falling into them or by lightning strikes.

After events like this storm, as employees, we ask what we could have done better or different to help restore power quicker. What about equiphave the right tools and adequate staffing to do our work? Now that the recovery efforts are still fresh in our mind, it's a good time to assess what worked, what didn't and what can we do or change to improve upon the process we have in place for responding to major service interruptions. Overall, we think the restoration effort went well.

As members you might be asking yourselves what you could do differently, if anything, to avoid or minimize the inconvenience caused when the power goes out. Certainly having a backup generator goes a long way towards minimizing a power outage. What about trees? It is a good time to look around your property and consider the risk that trees may pose if you have them within striking distance of Red Lake Electric's power-line or your own service wires.

You might also question why Red Lake Electric doesn't just install more underground lines. Certainly having underground lines vs. overhead power lines would help avoid most of the tree and wind problems this storm created. While underground cable might seem like an attractive solution, it is not without a price. Underground construction is about twice as expensive as overhead construction. Underground construction has its benefits but it has a shorter life than overhead construc-

ment and manpower; did we tion and is not immune to rodents, shovels, backhoes and whatever else we move earth with. It would be very expensive to make significant overhead power line replacements to our electric plant.

> After the initial blow went through and the damage was done, our phones were busy. We appreciate the information members called in. Spotting problems on the line and making repairs after dark just takes longer to do than when crews are working during the day. You alerting us to problem areas such as where trees were on the line, wires down and poles broken went a long way in accelerating our restoration

> We had all Red Lake Electric Employees help out in some way with this storm recovery effort. In addition to our crews, help from our neighboring electric cooperatives to the north were called upon to assist in our restoration efforts. Eight linemen, four each from P.K.M. Electric in Warren and Roseau Electric Cooperative in Roseau, equipped with bucket trucks and digger equipment, helped shorten the outage period significantly. I sincerely appreciate the extended work days our employees and invited help worked to get power restored. I was very pleased with their effort and I hope you were too.



# **Report from the Office**

## by Shirley Bregier

## Auto pay/paperless promotion

Once again we are promoting our Auto Pay service with a drawing to win a \$100 credit on your electric bill. This drawing is held to thank our customers who already enjoy the convenience of Auto Pay as well as any new Auto Pay customers who are willing to give the service a try. RLEC is also promoting our paperless billing option. If you sign up for paperless billing or if you are already receiving your electric bill electronically, you will be entered in a drawing for a Kindle HD6. All you have to do to become eligible for either drawing is to be signed up for Auto Pay and/or paperless billing by October 30th. With Auto Pay you will continue to receive your electric statement by the 10th of each month. Your payment will automatically be withdrawn from your bank account on the 25th of each month. It's simple and free. No check to write, no envelope to prepare, no postage to deal with. No matter where you are your electric bill will be paid. Sign up for paperless billing and you will be notified by email when your electric bill is ready for viewing on our secure payment web site, Bill4U. Once on this site you can make a payment, view your statements and check you daily usage. You can also download the free Bill4U app to your smartphone. There is a sign up for Auto Pay and promotion details in this issue of Volts & Jolts.

Unclaimed capital cred-

In this issue of Volts & Jolts you will find a listing of past members we have been unable to locate. We have a capital credit check for these members and need a current address to contact them. If you have (3529005.01 Centurylink Inc.) a current address for anyone on this listing please give us a call at 1-800-245-6068 or email their address to redlake@minnkota.com.

Sales tax

With fall just around the corner I want to remind you that residential heating is exempt from sales tax. If you haven't already sent us a sales tax exemption form please fill out the form below and mail or email it to our office. You can also obtain a form from our website www.redlakelectric. com or by calling our office.

Have a safe harvest season.

### **ELECTRIC HEAT EXEMPTION**

This is to certify that the primary source of heat for my residence is electricity and I am eligible for the electric heating sales tax exemption as provided by Minnesota State Law. The primary source is the source that supplies more heat than any other source for the largest period of time during the heating season.

Date	Account number		
Social Security Number			
Signature			

## Helping protect your home from electrical fires -Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs)

What Consumers Need to Know about AFCIs

What measures have you taken to secure your homelocks on the doors, security lighting, smoke and radon detectors? You can add to that security and help protect your home and family from electrical fires by installing arc fault circuit interrupters/breakers

(AFCIs). U.S. The Administration reports that during a typical year, home electrical problems account for 28,600 fires and \$1.1 billion in property losses. They further note that December and January are the most dangerous months for electrical fires because of increased indoor activity-including lighting, heating, and appliance use. Arcing faults are among the major causes of these fires. AFCIs are designed to protect against fires caused by arcing faults in home electrical

Conditions that trigger arcing faults include:

high regard.

• Damaged wires from nails driven into walls.

• Cracked insulation on wires due to aging or stress.

· Frayed wires at stress

points. · Loose or improper connections, faulty electrical equipment, and overheated electrical wires.

Safe Electricity urges consumers to consider adding Fire AFCI protection to both new and existing homes to help prevent electrical fires, particularly older homes with standard circuit breakers, as arc faults can occur in aging wiring systems.

> "Unwanted arcing can create high temperatures that can ignite walls and nearby combustible materials-such as wood and carpets," explains electrical inspector Mike Ashenfelter, member of the Safe Electricity Advisory Board.

Standard circuit breakers do not protect against arcing conditions. They are designed to trip in response to a sustained amount of heat. In contrast, an AFCI monitors current flow and can distinguish between normal, working arcs and unwanted, dangerous arcs. When an unwanted arcing condition is detected, it shuts down the circuit.

While both a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) and an AFCI have a test button, each type of circuit interrupter serves a different purpose. GFCIs are designed to protect consumers against electrical shock, while AFCIs are designed to protect against electrical fires. AFCIs will not interfere with the operation of GFCI outlets.

The cost of installing AFCIs is directly related to the size of the house and the number of circuits installed. Each AFCI typically costs about \$30 to \$40. AFCIs provide an increased level of safety, and the cost increase is insignificant compared to the total cost of the home.

Ashenfelter advises, "If you are interested in making your home safer by installing AFCIs, contact a qualified electrician to do so." The 2014 National Electrical Code requires combination AFCIs on circuits for all dwelling unit family rooms, dining rooms, living rooms, libraries, dens, bedrooms, sun rooms, recreation rooms, hallways, closets, finished basements, or other rooms of that nature.

It is important to note that AFCIs do not provide protection against all of the possible circuit faults that can cause fires, but they are a significant step forward in electrical fire

Safe Electricity urges you to take steps to keep your home and loved ones safe from electrical fires. Learn more at SafeElectricity.org.

For more information and videos on electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org. Safe Electricity is a program of the

Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting electrical safety and energy efficiency,

and supported by a coalition of hundreds of organizations, including electric utilities, educators and other enti-

committed to promoting safe use of electricity.

EnergyEdCouncil.org SafeElectricity.org EfficiencyResource.org

## In case of an electrical outage or emergency call the Cooperative's after-

In observance of Labor Day, Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Monday, September 7.

**Closed Labor Day** 

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!

## For all your Aerial Spraying Needs



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**Evan Ose, Owner/Operator** 

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(218) 689-8088 oseairspray@mncable.net

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## **NOTICE**

After-hours

outage phone

218-253-2200

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.

## ATTENTION

**Red Lake County Small Business and Potential Start-up Enterprises** 

The Red Lake County Economic Development Corporation can help you start your own business or expand an existing one. We are here to assist with a five-year loan for an amount up to \$15,000 at 4% APR. The business must be located in Red Lake County.

For more information contact Dave Ste. Marie 218-698-4279, Leo Olson 218-796-5656 / 218-280-9405 or Mike Spurgin 218-465-4648.

## Cooperative, Inc., P. O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750-0430. E-mail: redlake@minnkota.com **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

. . . . . . . . . Kelly Lundeen,

Stacy Blawat

**Mission Statement** 

It is the mission of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to

enhance the quality of life for people of our service area

by safely and consistently providing quality electric

service and other valued services while holding our

employees, our community and our environment in

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.

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**Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.** 

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## From the Mail Bag

Dear RLEC, Thank you.

Eva Hurlburt Kratka 4-H Club

Thank you very much for sponsoring the sheep herdsmanship award and the sheep rate of gain award. For rate of gain my wether lamb's rate of gain was .79 pounds per day. I will be taking my wether down to state fair at the end of August. Your involvement in 4-H is greatly appreciated.

> Thanks again, **Kristin Farris Highlanding 4-H Club**

Dear RLEC,

Thank you for the beef herdsmanship award at the Pennington County Fair.

> **Maddie Stewart Happy Acres 4-H Club**

Dear RLEC,

Thank you for donating the beef rate of gain at the 2015 very generous and your support to 4-H means alot.

Malena Rupprecht Silverton 4-H Club

Dear RLEC,

Thank you for the gift of money for awards.

> **Hayden Shlustad Clover Bud**

Dear RLEC,

Thank you for your donation on my 4-H project at my

> **Matt Weiss Huot Hustlers 4-H Club**

## county fair! cash award and trophy for the Pennington County Fair. It is

Thanks again,

# Recipe Corner

## Fried Zucchini

**Ingredients:** •1-2 Zucchini

•2-3 cups milk

•Panko Bread Crumbs {Next to Shake n Bake at Grocery Store or you can use regular bread crumbs} •3 cups flour

Directions: Heat oil to medium heat. Slice zucchini into several circles. Throw 10-15 slices of zucchini into a bowl of milk. From there add slices to a gallon bag filled with the flour. Shake around. Put slices back into the milk and make sure it gets all wet again. Add slices to a gallon bag filled with Panko crumbs. Shake around. Fry until golden brown. Repeat process until all the slices are breaded and fried.

### **Lemony Raspberry** Zucchini Bread with a **Lemony Glaze**

makes a 9" loaf

Ingredients:

For the Bread:

•2 cups unbleached allpurpose flour

•2 teaspoon baking powder

•1/2 tsp salt

•2 eggs

•1/2 cup vegetable oil

•2/3 cup sugar

•1/2 cup milk

•1/4 cup fresh lemon

•Zest of 1 lemon

•1 cup grated zucchini

•1 cup of raspberries

For the Glaze:

1 cup powdered sugar2 Tablespoons fresh

lemon juice

Directions: Preheat oven to 350 °F. Grease and flour a 9×5" loaf pan, set

aside. In large bowl, blend flour, baking powder, and salt. In the mixer bowl of a mixer/mediumsized bowl, beat 2 eggs well. Then add oil and sugar, and beat on low until well combined. Add the milk, lemon juice, and lemon zest; blend everything well. Gently mix in the zucchini until just evenly distributed in mixture. Add dry ingredients and fold everything together, but don't over mix. Fold in the raspberries. Pour the batter into the loaf pan. Bake for 45 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan 10

minutes then remove to a wire rack and cool completely. While the loaf is cooling, in small bowl, mix the powdered sugar and lemon juice until well blended. Spoon the glaze over the cooled loaf. Let the glaze set prior to slicing and serving.

### **Cucumbers in** cream

Ingredients:

•2 or 3 cucumbers, peeled and sliced

•1 medium onion, sliced thinly, and separated into rings, or green onions

•1 cup sour cream •1/4 cup cider vinegar

•1/4 cup sugar

•1/4 tsp. salt

•¹/4 tsp. pepper, or more

•1/4-1/2 tsp. dill weed, if desired

Directions: Layer cucumbers and onion in bowl. Mix sour cream, vinegar, sugar, salt, pepper and dill weed in a small bowl. Pour over cucumbers and onions. to combine. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Stir a few times

before serving to marinate cucumbers. S'mores Krispie

Ingredients: •3 TBS unsalted butter

**Treats** 

•pinch of salt •5 cups mini marshmal-

lows, divided •6 - 7 cups Graham

cereal pieces •3 - 1.55 oz. Hershey's® Milk chocolate bars, bro-

ken into pips

Directions: Spray a 9" x 13" pan with cooking spray. In a large stock pot, melt the butter and salt over medium heat. Once it is melted, add 4 cups of the mini marshmallows and stir until they are completely melted. Take mixture off heat and add in the cereal and stir. Add in the extra cup of mini marshmallows and stir to just combine. Working quickly, pour half the mixture into the prepared pan and press down then top and press down then top with the rest of the chocolate. Allow to sit at room temperature for several

refrigerator for about an hour. Remove from pan and cut into bars.

## Chicken Fajita Pasta Ingredients:

•2 tablespoons olive oil •1 pound boneless, skin-

less chicken breasts •1 envelope (3 tablespoons) taco or fajita sea-

soning •2 cups diced onion (about 1 whole onion)

•2 cups diced bell pep-

pers (2-3 bell peppers) garlic, cloves •3-4

minced

•2 cups low-sodium

chicken broth

•1/2 cup heavy cream •1 (10-oz) can Ro-Tel Diced Tomatoes and

Green Chiles •8 oz (about 3 cups)

penne pasta

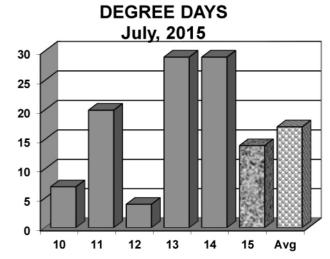
•1/2 teaspoon salt

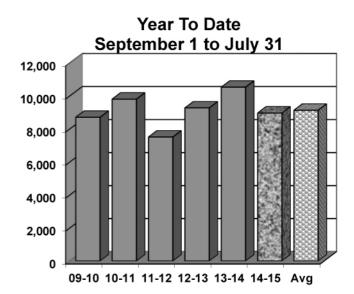
Directions: Cut the chicken into bite-sized pieces. Season with half of taco seasoning. In a 12inch skillet, heat 1 tablespoon olive oil over high heat. When the oil is very hot, carefully add the chicken in a single layer and cook without stirring until one side is seared and browned, about 1-2 minutes. Flip the chicken to the other side and cook until browned. Remove the chicken to a plate and set aside. Add the remaining 1 tablespoon of olive oil to the skillet with the heat still on high. When the oil is very hot again, add the onions, bell peppers, and remaining taco seasoning. Cook, stirring occasionallv, until the veggies are slightly blackened. Turn heat to low, add minced garlic, and (3736022.10 Roger & Susan Finger) until fragrant and well combined, about 30 seconds. Remove the veggies to the plate with the chicken. In the same skillet, add the broth, cream, diced tomatoes, uncooked pasta, and salt. Stir to combine and bring to a boil, then cover, reduce heat to mediumlow, and cook for 15 minwith half the Hershey's utes until pasta is tender pips. Pour the rest of the and liquid is mostly mixture onto the chocolate absorbed. Add the chicken and veggies back into the skillet and stir to combine until heated through, about 2 minutes. Serve hours to set up OR place in with buttery garlic bread.

## **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.







One of the Minnkota Power Systems

## Things you should know about your electric service

## **BILLINGS AND COLLEC-**TION

You will receive your energy bill on or near the 10th of each month. Payment of your monthly energy bill is due on the 10th 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, by mail or by Bill4U on www.redlakeelectric.com.

Payment must be in our office or in the mail as evidenced by the postmark on or by the 25th day of the 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 end of the month a notice of disconnection statement will be included in the message area on your following energy bill. The disconnection statement will give a final notice of when your electric service will be disconnected if the delinquent amount remains unpaid. If an employee is sent to disconnect your electric service a \$80 collection fee will be charged to your account, even if you pay the

To have a disconnected service reconnected, all amounts owing including the \$80 reconnection fee and a security deposit must be paid. If the service must be reconnected after normal working hours a \$250 reconnection fee must be paid.

**BAD CHECKS** A \$25 charge will be levied each time a check is returned because of nonsufficient funds, account being closed or payment stopped along with any applicable bank

**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

## **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 of \$80 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, that 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. Please keep in mind that the reading on your bill is from the end

## **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 serv-

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

Security light: LED, \$8/month; High pressure sodium, \$8/month; mercury vapor, \$9/month; water heater flat credit, \$7/month (January-

Long term off peak . . . . . . . . . . 5.5¢ Short term off peak . . . . 7.5¢ Off-peak equipment charge, \$5.50/month per heat meter.

# **ENERGY STAR Look for** the logo

218-253-2200 after hours.

The ENERGY STAR logo is on all qualified products that meet specific standards for energy efficiency.

**ENERGY STAR-qualified** products exceed the federal minimum standards for efficiency and quality-sometimes

significantly. Look for the label on appliances, electronics, water heaters, windows, and other products that consume energy in your home.



405 Bridge St NE, Red Lake Falls OPEN: Everyday 5:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.

253-2995

## RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC. OPERATING REPORT

#### MONTHLY COMPARISON 2015 653.797 \$547,196 Total Revenue Total Margins (279, 394)(\$99,154) Cost of Power 702,318 \$700,473 KWH's Purchased 7,819,271 7,540,485 Capital Credits Paid to Estates 3,998 \$6,037 Average outage time in minutes per member

YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON			
		June 2014	June 2015
Total I	Revenue	\$7,997,305	\$6,872,508
Total I	Margins	\$1,130,167	\$435,994
Cost	of Power	\$5,374,017	\$5,211,864
KWH'	s Purchased	78,422,602	70,833,516
New S	Service Connections	11	12
Custo	mers Served	5,270	5,335
Capita	l Credits Paid to Estates	\$30,453	\$31,555
Avera	ge outage time in minutes per member	37	28.6
Miles	of Line - Over Head	2,323	2,327
Miles	of Line - Underground	264	270

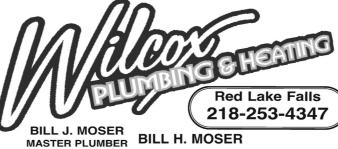
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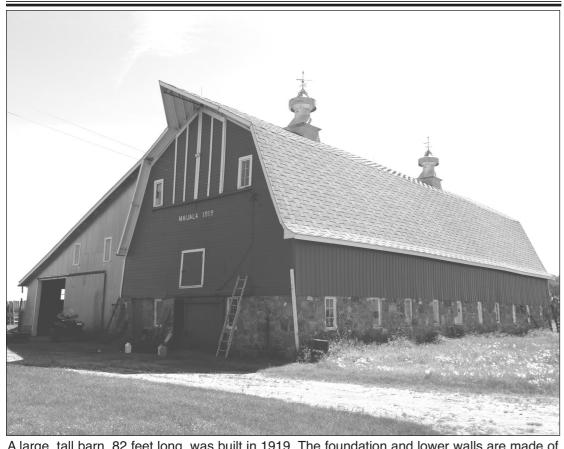


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## **VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH**

# The Maijala Century Farm



A large, tall barn, 82 feet long, was built in 1919. The foundation and lower walls are made of native rock. The front of the barn reads, Maijala 1919.

by Evelyn Glass

Four and a half miles east of Middle River in Spruce Valley Township, Marshall County, Minnesota, lies the Harold Maijala Century Farm. The area has a history of having many settlers who arrived from Finland and settled in township. Harold's Grandfather Solomon and Grandmother Rina moved onto the farm in 1911. Traditions that had their roots in Finland came with them. One was the celebration of St. Uro. Held in March it honored the mythical character of St. Uro who drove the grasshoppers out of the land of Finland and saved their crops. During the festival a local person was always crowned as St Urho and "ruled" over the festivities. This was a celebration that was observed by the community for several years until it eventually was discontinued.

Another Finnish tradition, which promoted good health, was having a sauna or steam bath on each farm. Saunas were used for bathing and stimulating the bather to experience complete physical and mental (4317006.07 Michael J. Srnsky) relaxation. Like other traditions, the practice of having a steam bath followed by a dip in a cold pool or snow, has become rare. Harold said he no longer has a sauna on his

farm. The Maijala farm consists of 650 acres. Beef cows, small grains, and hay are grown on the farm along with some acres in the CRP and Preventive Planting programs. Milk cows were once an important part of the farm. The cows were

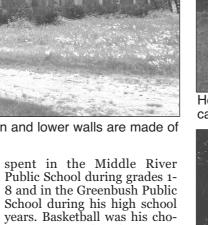
always milked by hand and the milk was hauled to Middle River in cans. In the 50s and 60s they transitioned to beef

A large, tall barn, 82 feet long, was built in 1919. The foundation and lower walls are made of native rock. As was typical of barns of that era it has a large hay mow and a large door that was let down so hay could be put into the mow. The hay was put into slings and using a series of pulleys the hay was pulled up into the barn by a tractor. Today the hay is baled in large bales and

is not stored in the mow. Harold's Grandparents, Solomon and Rina had eleven children, five girls and six boys. The original house was very small in the beginning, with additions added through the years to make room for their growing family. Solomon passed away in 1928 and Rina in 1975. At that time their son Bill and his brother Tom assumed ownership of the farm. A new house was built in 1956 by Bill and his wife, Berniece (Arneds). The old house still stands to remind

the family of the early years. Bill and Berniece's son, Harold is the third generation to farm the land. He was born in 1957 at the hospital in Karlstad as was his sister, Susan, who is now retired and lives in Hovland, MN. (She has spent the years of her career working for a group of attorneys in Grand Marais, MN.) Harold operates the farm now after the death of his dad, Bill, in 1995 and his mother, Berniece, in 2009.

Harold's school years were



hunting deer in the fall. Harold's dog, "Moe", keeps watch over the farm accompanied by a newcomer to the farm, a cat, yet to be named. She arrived in mid-June looking for a home after someone

sen sport. Today, he enjoys

dropped her off along the road. When asked how the Red Lake Electric had made his life better, Harold emphasized the good service provided by the Red Lake Electric. He added because he has the convenience of electricity many facets of living on his farm are made



Howard Person from the Marshall County Extension office presented the century farm certificate to Harold Maijala on Friday, July 24 at the Marshall County Fair located in Warren, MN.



In this house, Solomon and Rina Maijala raised eleven children. The house is still standing to day to remind the family of the early years. Harold recently painted the house and replaced the shingles with steel. (4616003.15 Kirk Hibbert)



The Maijala farm is located in Spruce Valley Township of Marshall County, Middle River Minnesota. The land was purchased in 1911 from L.E. Jones and the State of Minnesota by Rina Maijala to include 240 acres. The major crops of the farm were oats, barley, and hay. Rina passed the farm to Tom and William Maijala and then onto Harold Maijala.

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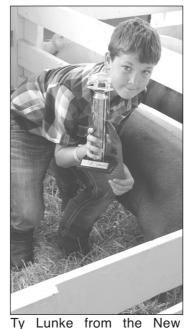
**VOLTS AND JOLTS** AUGUST 2015



Happy Go Lucky 4-H member Sara Quick received two awards from Red Lake Electric Cooperative at the 2015 Red Lake County Fair for her horse project and veterinary sciences. Photo courtesy



Farris Highlanding 4-H Club won the senior showmanship award and the Rate of Gain award with her sheep at the 2015 Pennington County Fair. The award was sponsored by Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Photo courtesy of



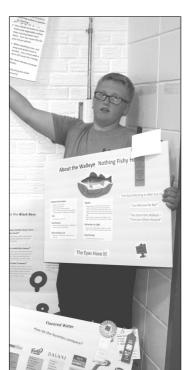
Maine 4-H Club was the Jr. Showmanship Champion in the Swine Division at the Marshall County Fair which was held July 22-26, 2015. Ty's parents are Brad and Sara Lunke of rural Thief River Falls. The award was sponsored by Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Photo courtesy of Marshall County Extension



Malena Rupprecht of the Silverton 4-H Club won the senior showmanship award and the Rate of Gain award in the beef division. The rate of gain was 3.4 pounds per day. The award was sponsored by Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Photo courtesy of Thief River Falls Times



Winning the champion ewe award at the 2015 Pennington County Fair was Kale Geiser of the Steiner 4-H Club. The award was sponsored by Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Photo courtesy of Thief River Falls Times



Jacob Solie of the Huot Hustlers 4-H Club received awards (2029002.08 Paul McKibben & Jodi Kessler) sponsored by Red Lake Electric Cooperative at the Red Lake County Fair for his computer project, robotics and exploring animals. Not pictured and receiving an award from Red Lake Electric at the Red Lake County Fair was Justin Solie for exploring animals and Daniel Culkins for robotics. Photo courtesy of Oklee Herald



Tucker Lunke from the New Maine 4-H Club was the Jr. Showmanship Reserve Champion in the Swine Division at the 2015 Marshall County Fair. Tucker's parents are Brad and Sara Lunke of rural Thief River Falls. The award was sponsored by Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Photo courtesy of Marshall County Extension

## Great new incentives are available for upgrading your fluorescent lighting system

What type of lighting system are you using?

Inefficient T12

**Energy efficient T8** 

### How much is your lighting system costing you?

Lighting systems come in all shapes and sizes, and each component of the system provides energy-saving potential.

Inefficient systems, such as T12 fixtures, use up to 40% more energy than newer, more efficient models.

Type of Fixture	All day, Every day	50 Hours per Week	Energy Efficiency
T12 (1½" dia.), 2 bulb	\$61	\$18	Not Efficient
T8 (1" dia.), 2 bulb	\$49	\$15	Good
High Performance T8, 2 bulb	\$44	\$13	More Efficient
Low-watt T8, 2 bulb	\$43	\$13	More Efficient
T8 LED, 2 bulb	\$35	\$10	More Efficient
Energy calculations are based o	n \$0.10/kWh	average cost.	

Call us today to learn about incentives for upgrading your lighting system to high-performance T8 fixtures!



Residential Prescriptive Program

This program is designed to provide end-use consumers with a quick and easy way to choose high-efficiency equipment at the time of normal equipment replacement or major renovations. Some of these technologies include:

ENERGY STAR CFL Lamps		\$2/bulb Max. 12 per customer
ENERGY STAR LED Screw-In Bulb	In place of 40-60W incandescent.	\$4/bulb
ENERGY STAR LED Screw-In Bulb	In place of 65W or greater incandescent.	\$8/bulb
Maximum of 12 per customer for LED screw-ii	ı bulbs.	
ENERGY STAR LED Recessed Downlights	Complete fixtures or replacements kits.	\$8/unit
LED Outdoor Fixtures	LED fixture Wattage of <40 Watts. Must operate on a photocell and be DesignLights Consortium approved.	\$40/fixture
LED Outdoor Fixtures	LED fixture Wattage of >40 Watts. Must operate on a photocell and be DesignLights Consortium approved.	\$80/fixture
Appliances (Must be ENERGY STA	R approved.)	
ENERGY STAR Refrigerator ENERGY STAR Refrigerator (with recycling of old refrigerator)		\$25/unit \$50/unit
ENERGY STAR Freezer ENERGY STAR Freezer (with recycling of old freezer)		\$25/unit \$50/unit
ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer		\$50/unit
ENERGY STAR Clothes Dryer		\$50/unit
Electric Water Heater	Minimum 80-gallon total capacity, EF ≥0.91. Must be controlled under the utility's load management program.	\$150/unit
Engine Block Heater Timer		\$10/unit
Heating, Ventilation Air Cond	itioning (HVAC) Measures	
Tune-Up for Residential Central A/C	Not valid on window units	\$25/unit
Tune-Up for Residential Air-Source Heat Pumps (ASHP)	Excludes mini-split ductless ASHPs	\$25/unit
ASHP	ENERGY STAR or 14.0 SEER / 8.2 HSPF	\$400/unit
Supplemental Heating Source for ASHP	Must modulate to allow ENERGY STAR-rated ASHP to operate down to 5°F, and be on load control	\$500/unit
Furnace (Air Handler) with ECM Blower	Furnace with ECM blower	\$150/unit
Mini-Split/Ductless ASHP	15 SEER	\$500/unit
Programmable Thermostat		\$25/unit



Ground-Source Heat Pump Open Loop <135,000 BTUH @ 59°F	16.2 EER /3.6 COP	\$200/ton Max. incentive \$2,500/home	
Ground-Source Heat Pump Closed Loop <135,000 BTUH @ 77°F	14.1 EER /3.3 COP	\$400/ton Max. incentive \$5,000/home	
New installations only. Must be installed by a qualified, insured contractor. Must be the primary heating source for the home and be on a list of prequalified units. Water-to-water systems need the manufacturer's specifications indicating the equipment meets incentive requirements.			
Replacement Geothermal			
Ground-Source Heat Pump Open Loop <135,000 BTUH @ 59°F	16.2 EER /3.6 COP	\$100/ton Max. incentive \$1,250/home	
Ground-Source Heat Pump	14.1 EER /3.3 COP	\$200/ton Max. incentive	

compressor will not qualify for the incentive. Equipshowing proof of purchase must be attached.

## **Energy Efficiency** Tip of the Month



Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using a rigid venting material - not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages.

Source: energy.gov



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LOOK UP

POWER LINES MAY BE OVERHEAD

## **Minnesota State Electrical Inspectors**

Pennington and Marshall Counties: Scott Stenvik -218-686-5406

Red Lake and **Polk Counties:** Brian Holmes -218-686-1413

Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, Minnesota state requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. A roughin inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. Please visit www.electricity.state.mn.us for more information.

The inspectors can be reached weekday mornings between 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

# Adding grain storage? Call us first.

Constructing a grain bin power line must be rerouted. too close to an electric power line is not only hazardous, but it's a violation of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). This regulation lists specific minimum distances that must be maintained (both horizontal and vertical clearances) between the bin and any utility-owned overhead lines.

A bin constructed too close to a power line may need to be moved, or the Correcting a Code violation is expensive for the property owner and the power suppli-

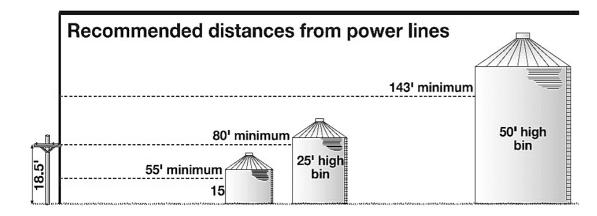
The clearances mandated by the NESC apply to bins that were (4419002.05 Collin Mooney) constructed or expanded after August

1989. We encourage anyone who thinks they have a violation, or is planning to build a bin to contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative Line Department. Call Steve Conely at 253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

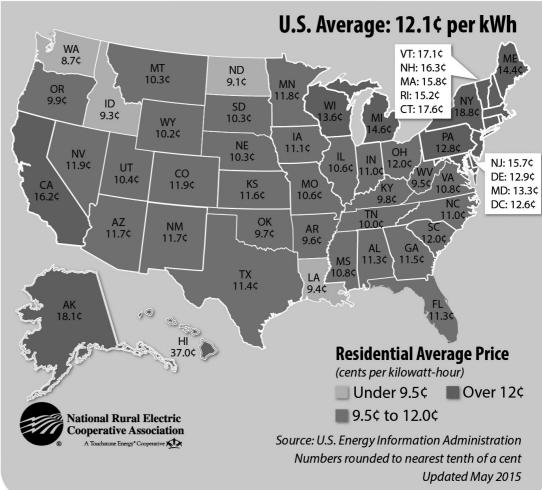


## **Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

One of the Minnkota Power Systems



## **Average Prices for Residential Electricity** 2015 figures, in cents per kWh



# **Heating Options**

Red Lake Electric Cooperatives's electric rate is lower than the state and national average. Red Lake Electric has two kilowatt hour (kWh) rates throughout the year. January through March the rate is 9.9¢ per kWh and April through December the rate is 9.5¢ per kWh. Our annual average is 9.7¢ per kWh, which puts RLEC below the national and state average.

## TO CONSIDER WHEN PLANNING A **NEW OR RETROFIT HEATING SYSTEM**

## **Electric plenum** heat

Plenum heaters are an economical choice that work well as a ret-



rofit option for off-peak in a fossil fuel furnace. They fit in the plenum (where the furnace ends and ductwork begins). This allows the member to use the most cost-effective heating source at any time. A \$20 per kW rebate is available (maximum of \$600).

## Electric cable or hydronic floor heat

Floor heat is a popular option for off-peak due to its comfort. The key is to install the proper heat storage base with sand and slab with complete perimeter insulation. A \$20 per

kW rebate is available (maximum of \$600).



## Air-source heat pump with modulating plenum heater

Air-source heat pumps transfer heat instead of creating it. ASHPs are very efficient depending on the outside temperature and work just like a central air conditioner in the summer. They are a good off-peak choice because you get very efficient heat until the temperature drops to between 20 and 30 degrees Fahrenheit. Then the modulating plenum heater kicks in and works with the heat pump for extra



savings. Energy efficiency rebates of up to \$1,050 are available as well as a separate \$20 per kW rebate for the plenum heater and \$100 per ton rebate for the heat pump (maximum of \$600).

## **Geothermal heat pumps**

Ground-source heat pumps provide the highest efficiencies for space heating and cooling available today. Geothermal heat pumps use the constant temperature of the earth to transfer heat. Energy efficiency rebates up to \$400 per ton are avail-

able as well as a separate rebate of \$200 per ton (maximum of \$600). Criteria does apply, including placement of any strip heat on load control. Federal tax credits are also available for qualifying installations.



A Steffes electric thermal storage system is a stand-alone off-peak heating system that eliminates the need for

fossil fuel backup when sized properly. Coupled with an air-source heat pump, a Steffes system



will deliver great energy savings and high efficiency. Steffes systems convert electricity into heat and store that heat in specially designed bricks. Because of its large heat storage capacity, it can provide comfort 24 hours per day. Energy efficiency rebates of

up to \$1,050 are available for select units as well as a separate \$20 per kW rebate (maximum of \$600).

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Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30 redlake@minnkota.com www.redlakeelectric.com



Call Before You Dig - Gopher State One Call · 1-800-252-1166

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.

**Informational Web Sites** 

- 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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Allen Remick - Cell: (218) 689-0313

## Red Lake Electric Cooperative Want Ad Order Form

**FREE for RLEC members** 

For sale and wanted items only. All ads must be 50 words or less. Ads are published for Red Lake Electric members at no charge. Ads must be typed or in clear read-able print. RLEC reserves the right to edit or

You can submit your ad by fax, email or mail.

- Fax ads to: (218)253-2168
- Email ads to: redlake@minnkota.com
- Mail ads to: Red Lake Electric Cooperative PO Box 430 Red Lake Falls MN 56750

Include your name, address and telephone number. All telephone numbers are presumed to have a 218

area code uniess noted otherwise.
You may use the below form to submit your ads.

AFTER-HOURS OUTAGE PHONE 218-253-2200

### RED LAKE ELECTRIC TRUST Post Office Box 430 Red Lake Falls, MN 56750

## OPERATION "ROUND UP®" GRANT APPLICATION FORM

	or Emilion Roomb of	© GREAT THE ELECTRON FORM
1.	Name of Organization:	
2.	Date Organized:	
3.	Address:	t or Post Office Box
	City or Town	State Zip Code
		in Expectation
4.	Contact Person:	Title
5.	Phone Number:Work	Home
6.	What is the mission or purpose of your or	ganization; i.e. what kind of services do you provide?
	Is organization requesting funding exempt Revenue Code? Yes No	from payment of income tax under 501 (c)3 of the Internal
		previous year should be provided. If not available attach evenue, program expenditures, administrative expenses and
		ies or groups served in the Red Lake Electric Cooperative ed Lake, Marshall (east half), and Polk (Parnell, Crookston, Badger, and Chester Townships).
	. Does agency serve outside of the Red Lal Yes No	ke Electric Cooperative service area as defined in #7?
	Yes, please provide information on number	r served and location.
11.	State Purpose of Organizations/Agency how funds will be used.	Request: (include amount requested and specifics of
12.	List other sources of funding for use of	request as described in the above:
the tha rep Re un to	e Red Lake Electric Trust on behal at the information provided herein presents and warrants that the infor ed Lake Electric Trust may consider til a written notice of a change is p	tement is for the purpose of obtaining funding from f of the undersigned. Each undersigned understands is used to determine funding, and each undersigned rmation provided is true and complete and that the his statement as continuing to be true and correct provided. The Red Lake Electric Trust is authorized sary to verify the accuracy of the statements made
		NAME OF ORGANIZATION
		SIGNATURE OF REPRESENTATIVE
		DATE

# HILLCREST

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Located in a scenic neighborhood setting, Hillcrest Senior Living offers an inspiring and compassionate lifestyle that enhances and uplifts the lives of our residents. Our team of dedicated and trained caregivers nurture a feeling of family. We deliver assisted living with all of the comforts of home

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**Hillcrest Senior Living** 311 Broadway Ave NE Red Lake Falls, MN 56750 www.hillcrestrlf.com



After-hours outage phone 218-253-2200

# Win \$100 or Kindle HD6

Sign up for Auto Pay & Paperless billing today!

- Sign up to pay your electric bill with Auto Pay and your name will be entered into a drawing for \$100.
- Sign up for paperless billing & your name will be entered in a drawing for a Kindle HD6.
- Both drawings will be held October 30, 2015.
- · If you are already enrolled in these programs your name will be automatically entered.



an account. You can either make a payment on the day of your choice or click on the set up automatic payments to sign up for Auto pay (or use the form below) and/or sign up for paperless billing. Auto pay will withdraw the amount of your electric bill on the 25th of each month. If you already are an auto pay customer then set up an account in Bill4U and sign up for paperless billing. You will receive an email each month when your bill is ready. You will then be able to sign in to Bill4U and see your statement. We also have a free app for your smartphone so you can access your statement wherever you are.

Any questions call 800-245-6068 or email redlake@minnkota.com.

## **Red Lake Electric Cooperative Auto-Pay Sign-up Sheet**

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

Name (Print) R.L.E.C. Account#\_ Bank Name Checking or Savings account #

Please return this sign-up form with a blank voided check to Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.



P.O. Box 430 • Red Lake Falls, MN 56750 Phone: 218-253-2168 • Toll Free: 800-245-6068 After hours # 218-253-2200

Can you help us locate any of the following?

The following people have capital credit refunds due them. Checks mailed to their last-known address have been returned by the Postal Service. If you can provide a current address for someone who is listed or the name and address of an heir if they are deceased, call or write Red Lake Electric Cooperative, PO Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750; 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

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