



Volts and Jolts

Published monthly for the members of
RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

SERVING THE FOUR-COUNTY AREA OF MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE AND POLK

VOL. 48 – NO. 1

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

OCTOBER 2012

Operation Round Up® grants total \$13,616

The Red Lake Electric Trust board met recently and awarded 20 grants to area non-profit and community organizations that totaled \$13,616. Since its inception in 1993, 672 Operation Round Up grants totaling \$399 thousand have been gifted to area community organizations. The Red Lake Electric Trust receives money for grants from the Operation Round Up program administered by the Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Today, 91% of Red Lake Electric's members voluntarily "round-up" their monthly bill for the Operation Round Up program.

Following are organizations awarded RoundUp funds to help the disadvantaged.

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

-Occupational Development Center of Thief River Falls: \$366 for their recreation/leisure fund.

-Early Childhood Family Advocate Program-TRF: \$1,000 to help sustain the Early Childhood Family Advocate program.

-Prairie Community Service:



\$500 to purchase lawn furniture & games for residential homes for persons with developmental disabilities.

-Satisfy the Hunger Backpack program in Plummer: \$250 to help supply food for elementary students who are in need of nourishment.

Four area emergency services were given grants.

-Viking Fire & Rescue: \$1,200 to help purchase a newer, more efficient fire truck.

-Goodridge Fire & Rescue: \$1,200 to help replace communication equipment to comply with the FCC.

-Newfolden Volunteer Fire Department: \$1,200 to help purchase a replacement firefighting ATV pumper.

-TRF Volunteer Fire Department: \$1,200 to purchase two Minitor V pagers & chargers.

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

-Life Care Center: \$500 to help with the purchase of an ultrasound machine.

-Pennington-Red Lake County Crime Victim Services: \$500 to help with victim expenses.

Area youth will benefit from Operation Round Up grants made to the following organizations:

-Pennington County 4-H: \$450 to purchase exercise and healthy eating incentives for students.

-Early Childhood Family Edu-

cation in Plummer: \$500 to fund a countywide ECFE presentation.

-Marshall County Social Services: \$500 for the Christmas sharing tree project and food basket project.

-Red Lake County Holiday Gift Program (Salvation Army): \$500 to purchase Christmas gifts for holiday program.

-Safety Camp (Pennington County & TRF): \$500 for 2013 Safety camp.

-Christmas for Pennington County: \$500 to assist in purchasing presents for needy children in Pennington County.

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

-Middle River-Thief Lake Living-at-Home/Block Nurse Program: \$500 to help elderly & others who are disabled to live at home instead of in assisted living or nursing homes.

-Goodridge Senior Center Inc: \$750 to help replace shingles on senior center building.

-Red Lake Falls LSS Senior Nutrition program: \$500 to help offset the cost of food and supplies for delivery of meals to seniors in need of good nutrition.

The RLE Trust Board of Directors determines grants two times per year, in March and September. Serving on the board are Patty Mickelson-President, Oklee; Van Swanson - Vice-President, TRF; and (1321003.02 Bernice Wagner) Randy Knutson- Secretary/Treasurer, Newfolden; Ex-officio directors are Bonnie Christians of Crookston and Roger Johanneck of Red Lake Falls, representing Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

Grant applications are available at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative Office or by visiting their web site at www.redlakeelectric.com. The next deadline for Operation Round Up grant applications are due March 7, 2013.

Beverly Schmitz retires

A career spanning forty six years came to an end September 28th as Beverly Schmitz retired from Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

Graduating from Lafayette High School, Bev left Red Lake Falls for Fargo ND to work at Fargo National Bank until August 15, 1966 when she began employment at Red Lake Electric. There are very few jobs in the office that Bev hasn't done as her position has changed over her 46 year employment.

Bev has helped many customers when they were first becoming a member of RLEC, taking out a loan, getting a ripple system hooked up or needing help to pay their electric bill. She not only took on many new roles, but she also filled in for others as they took leaves, retired or left employment with the Cooperative. "Bev was always willing to share her knowledge and help out wherever and whenever needed," said Shirley Bregier, RLEC Accountant. "Bev has a wealth of knowledge and experience that will really be missed. Bev never backed away from a challenge. She was always our rock, very strong but very caring."

For several years RLEC was part of a program with Lafayette High School which enabled seniors to go out in the work force for a couple hours each day. Bev was instrumental in helping many young women get their first experience in an office setting. "Many things have changed over these past 46 years", says Beverly. "When I started at Red Lake Electric we used a lot of column paper for worksheets with pencils and erasers. Now with all the technology, worksheets are much easier and the delete button took over for the eraser." Posting machines took up a good share of the office in Bev's early career, now we carry computers around in our hand.

Beverly recalls, "I remember one very stormy day in November. Our line crew and husbands were at



Beverly Schmitz accepts a plaque in recognition of her service to Red Lake Electric Cooperative and it's members. She is Congratulated by Roger Johanneck, Red Lake Electric general manager. Schmitz is the longest tenured employee, in the history of Red Lake Electric, with 46 years of service. She retired September 28.

deer camps and we had a huge snowstorm. My boss at that time, Ed Etterman, picked us girls up with a four wheel drive pickup and took our kids to the sitter (day care now days) so we could get to work. In looking back I'm sure he did it so he wouldn't be alone to manage the phone calls. If the bricks could talk, there would be a lot of memories to tell."

Beverly and her husband, Linus Schmitz, reside in Red Lake Falls and farm five miles northwest of Red Lake Falls. They have three children, Craig (Deb) Schmitz, Coreen (Brian) Berdahl and Carmen Schmitz along with three granddaughters, Jodi, Christina and Rachel. Bev and Linus are members of St. Joseph's Catholic Church where Bev is involved in the parish guild.

She has been chairperson for the American Cancer Society Daffodil

Days and a member of the Flaming Flamingo Relay for Life team. Bev and Linus have been long time members of the Pathfinder Snowmobile Club and are active in the Tri-Rivers Pioneer organization.

As Bev looks forward to spending more time watching the granddaughters play in their sporting events, doing crafts, gardening, trying new recipes and enjoying life with her family she says, "RLEC has been a great place to work, as you can tell by the years I've been here. There have been many challenges over the years, but always seemed to get through them." While looking forward to retirement, Bev remarks, "I will miss being part of the Red Lake Electric family and the daily interactions. I have enjoyed my career here and I am sincerely thankful and appreciate the support that has been given to me over the years".

Prairie Community Service receives Operation Round Up® Grant

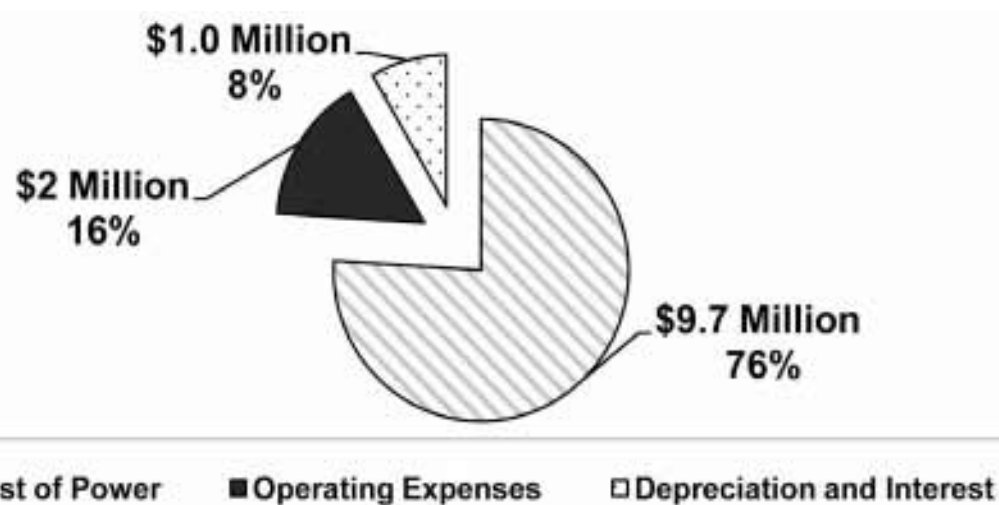


Recently Prairie Community Service (PCS) received a \$500 grant from Red Lake Electric Cooperative's (RLEC) Operation Round Up Program. PCS operates homes in Red Lake Falls and Thief River Falls. The grant will be used to purchase patio furniture for the enjoyment of residents. Pictured accepting the grant (center) is Bernice Alby a resident of Northwood Home, Red Lake Falls. Also pictured is Pam Schmidt, PCS program coordinator in Red Lake Falls and Roger Johanneck, RLEC general manger.

QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Did you ever think about how trees impact the cost of doing business at your Red Lake Electric Cooperative? Last year, RLEC's cost to provide electric service to it's members totaled \$12.7 million. About 1/6th (\$2 million) of that total cost represents Operating expenses. Operating expenses include, among other things, the cost to cut trees from the powerlines as part of regular maintenance, the cost to clear them from the power lines during outages and the cost to repair the power lines & other electrical equipment damaged by trees that fall into the line. Where you plant trees, and allowing the Cooperative to maintain adequate clearance, does make a difference in the cost of providing you reliable electric service.





Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



Extended service interruptions

Two weather related events caused service interruption to more than 2,900 (over half) Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) members earlier this month. Our distribution system has confronted more severe weather related trouble than our recent go-round with mother nature but thankfully, it has been a few years since we have faced trouble to the extent we had on October 2nd and again on October 4th and 5th.

On October 2nd, extreme dry and windy conditions helped fuel multiple fires in Northwestern Minnesota. While our service area escaped the brunt of the property damage caused by these fires, it did claim seven of our power line poles and some electrical equipment along the fires path. RLEC was fortunate that only a minimal number of members' electric service was interrupted from the widespread fires. Two days later however, on October 4th, the wind and fires turned to wind, snow and ice, only this time covering a larger part of our service area, leaving a greater number of RLEC members without power.

The phone calls alerting us to power interruptions started Thursday morning and they didn't quit ringing until the end of the line repairs were in sight Friday afternoon; all power was restored by the end of the workday on Friday. Of the eight substations serving RLEC, only members served by the Highlandling substation which serves the North East (Goodridge) part of our service area, escaped interruption of power from this storm.

Most of our service interruptions were caused by the ice forming on the lines and winds whipping them enough so that wires made contact with each other, tripping breakers open on our power

lines. Other causes were from branches and trees breaking and falling into the power line causing breakers to trip and lines to break.

The high winds and ice also created trouble to Minnkota's transmission lines which interrupted power to three of their eight substations in our service area. Dakota Substation which serves members North and West of Thief River Falls was out two times for a total of 16 minutes; Holt substation which serves the northernmost part of our service area was out two times for a total of 52 minutes and the Morris Owen Substation in the Thief River Falls area and west was out twice for a total of 59 minutes.

Now that the storm has passed and the power is back on there are some things worth noting that we are grateful for:

We are grateful for:
-the limited damage to our distribution system. Despite the widespread power interruption for our members, we need only look to our Cooperative neighbor systems to the North and West to see that we could have had it much worse. We did not (2611006.01 Vincent Larson) sustain as much system damage as we thought was happening when all the phone calls were coming in. We had broken conductor, trees to remove from the line, burnt line fuses to replace but surprisingly, there were no poles broken from the wind, snow and ice.

-the work of Minnkota Power Cooperative to get the transmission system operational and power flowing to their substations; their work restored power to a good share of our members.

-the determined and safe work carried out by all of our employees. I appreciate their efforts to work in some nasty and busy conditions; just travelling the service area trying not to land in the ditch was a

project with all the snow and slippery roads.

-to members for their calls alerting us of physical damage to the power lines, for staying clear of power lines that were downed or tangled in broken limbs and fallen trees.

-members who have permitted us to trim trees an adequate distance from the power line; it makes a difference and helped us avert more damage and service interruption from this recent storm.

We have received a number of thank-you cards and letters from our membership for the efforts to get power restored during that storm. I can assure you the employees appreciate your thoughtfulness and understanding while they are working to restore your power.

Beverly Schmitz Retires.

As you may have read already, our longest tenured employee has called it a career here at the Cooperative. While Bev's 46 years of work here at the Cooperative is certainly notable, it is not her length of time here that we admire and will miss about Bev. Her competence, her willingness to do what it takes to get the job done, by changing with the times (of which there have been a few over the past 46 years), learning new ways to carry out tasks, and knowing how to fill in for others when needed all make for a valuable employee. Beverly was also dang good at baking the occasional treats that she would willingly share at our morning break; how can you not miss someone like that? I'll finish here by sharing something printed on a fridge magnet we have at home which reads: "If the only prayer you ever say in life is "thank you", that would suffice. "Thank you Bev."



The snow and rain of October 4 caused numerous electrical outages for Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Damage to cooperative equipment was minimal but did include several wire breaks. Often, once the problem was detected a section of line would be opened until repairs could be made allowing the main line to have power restored. Pictured is a cooperative lineworker as he disconnects a tap to isolate a line with a problem

Mission Statement

It is the mission of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to enhance the quality of life for people of our service area by consistently providing quality electric service and other valued services while holding our employees, our community and our environment in high regard.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc. VOLTS & JOLTS

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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.

Celebrate with savings

Buy energy efficient Christmas lights & decorations

LED Rebate Coupon

How to apply:



1. Purchase LED Christmas plug-in (not battery operated) lights and decorations in 2012.
2. Complete this coupon and submit it to Red Lake Electric Cooperative by Dec. 14, 2012, with your original sales receipt and the LED packaging showing the LED logo and number of lights per string.
3. Strings must be 100 or fewer lights.
4. \$3/string of lights, maximum of 5 strings per customer. Rebate cannot exceed price of LED string per package.

Name _____ City/Zip _____

Account # _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Number of Strings	Rebate per string	Total Rebate

Mail to: Red Lake Electric Cooperative • P.O. Box 430 •
Red Lake Falls, MN 56750-0430

“Don’t knock the weather, if it didn’t change once in a while, nine out of ten people couldn’t start a conversation.”
-author unknown.



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 reconnected, 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-December9.5¢ Kwh
January-March9.9¢ 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.

Recipe Corner



Buttermilk Biscuits

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup shortening
- 3/4 cup buttermilk

In a bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt; cut in shortening until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in buttermilk; knead dough gently. Roll out to 1/2-in. thickness. Cut with a 2-1/2-in. biscuit cutter and place on a lightly greased baking sheet. Bake at 450° for 10-15 minutes or until golden brown.

Yield: 10 biscuits.

Potato Dumplings

- 3 pounds russet potatoes
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup all-purpose flour, divided
- 1/2 cup dry bread crumbs
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- Dash pepper
- Minced fresh parsley, optional

Place potatoes in a saucepan and cover with water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 30-35 minutes or until tender. Drain well. Refrigerate for 2 hours or overnight. Peel and grate potatoes. In a bowl, combine the eggs, 3/4 cup flour, bread crumbs, salt, nutmeg and pepper. Add potatoes; mix with hands until well blended. Shape into 1-1/2 in. balls; roll in remaining flour.

In a large kettle, bring salted water to a boil. Add the dumplings, a few at a time, to boiling water. Simmer, uncovered, until the dumplings rise to the top; cook 2 minutes longer. Remove dumplings with a slotted spoon to a serving bowl, Sprinkle with parsley if desired.

Yield: 10 servings.

Homemade Chicken Soup

- Leftover chicken and reserved stock
- 2 to 3 stalks celery
- 6 to 8 carrots, sliced
- 2 tablespoons parsley
- Black pepper to taste
- 2 cans chicken stock
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 tablespoon poultry seasoning

Pick chicken off bone and place in 3-quart pot with stock. Add enough water to fill pot. Place remaining ingredients in pot and let simmer until vegetables are tender, about 2 hours.

Yields: 4 to 6 servings.

German Sauerbraten

- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 beef top round roast (about 4 pounds)
- 2-1/2 cups water
- 2 cups cider vinegar
- 2 medium onions, sliced
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons mixed pickling spices
- 1 teaspoon whole peppercorns
- 8 whole cloves
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 14 to 16 gingersnaps, crushed

Combine salt and ginger; rub over roast. Place in a deep glass bowl. In a saucepan, combine water, vinegar, onions, sugar, pickling spices, peppercorns, cloves and bay leaves; bring to a boil. Pour over roast; turn to coat. Cover and refrigerate for 2 days, turning twice a day. Remove roast, reserving marinade; pat roast dry. In a large kettle or Dutch oven, brown roast on all sides in oil. Strain marinade, reserving half of the onions and seasonings. Pour 1 cup of marinade and reserved onions seasonings over roast (cover and refrigerate remaining marinade). Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 3 hours or until meat is tender.

Strain cooking liquid, discarding the onions and seasonings. Measure liquid; if necessary, add enough reserved marinade to equal 3 cups. Pour into a saucepan; bring to a rolling boil. Add gingersnaps; simmer until gravy is thickened. Slice roast and serve with gravy.

Yield: 12-14 servings.

Buttermilk Fried Chicken with Gravy

- 1 broiler-fryer chicken (2-1/2 to 3 pounds), cut up
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1-1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- Cooking oil for frying

- Gravy:**
- 3-tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1-1/2 to 2 cups water
- Salt and pepper to taste

Place chicken in a large flat dish. Pour buttermilk over; cover and refrigerate for 1 hour. Combine flour, salt and pepper in a double-strength paper bag. Drain chicken pieces; toss, one at a time, in flour mixture. Shake off excess; place on waxed paper for 15 minutes to dry. Heat 1/8 to 1/4 in. of oil in a large skillet; fry chicken until brown on all sides. Cover and simmer, turning occasionally, for 40-45 minutes, or until juices run clear and chicken is tender. Uncover and cook 5 minutes longer. Remove chicken and keep warm. Drain all but 1/4 cup drippings in skillet; stir in flour until bubbly. Cook 1 minute more. add remaining water if needed. Season with salt and pepper. Serve with chicken.

Yield: 4-6 servings.

Cowpoke Chili

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 can (10-1/2 ounces) condensed beef broth, undiluted
- 1 can (8 ounces) tomato sauce
- 1 can (6 ounces) tomato paste
- 1 can (15-1/2 ounces) hot chili beans
- 1 can (15 ounces) black beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- Dash cayenne pepper
- 2 cups frozen lima beans, thawed

Cherry tomatoes, fresh oregano and small chili peppers, optional
In a large saucepan, cook beef, onion and garlic over medium heat until meat is no longer pink; drain. Stir in the broth, tomato paste until blended. Add the next 10 ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 30 minutes.

Add lima beans; cook 5-10 minutes longer or untils beans are tender. Garnish with tomatoes, oregano and peppers if desired.

Yield:7 servings.

Turkey Soup

- 2 turkey wings or drumsticks
- 2 to 3 large onions, chopped
- 1 bunch celery, sliced of chunked
- 1 pound carrots, sliced or chunked
- 1 large can crushed tomatoes
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 to 3 tablespoon parsley
- 2 tablespoons poultry seasoning
- 1 to 2 teaspoons black pepper
- 1/2 cup uncooked instant rice
- 1 can green beans, optional

Place turkey in large stockpot and cover with water. Simmer for 11/2 to 2 hours, or until meat falls off bone. Remove skin and bone from pot.

Add onions, celery, carrots, tomatoes, garlic, parsley, poultry seasoning, black pepper and rice. Let simmer for an additional 1-1/2 to 2 hours, or until vegetables are tender. Add green beans and heat through.

Yields: 6 to 8 servings.

California Pepper Chili

- 1/2 pound bacon, diced
- 2-1/2 pounds beef stew meat, cut into 3/4-inch cubes
- 1-1/2 pounds pork stew meat, cut into 3/4-inch cubes
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 6 to 8 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 to 2 tablespoons chopped seeded fresh serrano chili peppers
- 1 to 2 tablespoons chopped seeded fresh poblano chili peppers
- 1 to 2 tablespoons chopped seeded fresh jalapeno peppers
- 2 to 3 teaspoons cayenne pepper
- 1-1/2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 can (15 ounces) tomato puree
- 1 can (14-1/2 ounces) beef broth
- 7 plum tomatoes, chopped shredded cheddar cheese, optional

In a large saucepan, cook bacon over medium heat until crisp. Remove to paper towels to drain, reserving 3 tablespoons drippings. In the drippings, cook the beef, pork and onions until meat is browned; drain. Add the garlic, peppers and seasonings; cook and stir for 1-2 minutes.

Stir in the tomato puree, broth and tomatoes. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 1 to 1-1/2 hours or until meat is tender. Garnish with reserved bacon and cheese if desired.

Yield: 8 servings.

From the Mail Bag

Dear Red Lake Electric Trust:

Thank you very much for your contribution to the Salvation Army Holiday Gift Program for the 2012 holiday season. The generosity of the Operation Round Up Contributors is very helpful to our program, as we continue to assist those in need. I also recognize, and appreciate that many of these same people take names off our Giving Trees and purchase gifts for low-income children and vulnerable adults. The spirit of giving in our community continues to amaze me year after year. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kathie Johanneck
Red Lake County
Salvation Army

Dear Red Lake Electric Trust:

Thank You!! The support of your membership and the board is appreciated much more than can be expressed! We hope to purchase an ATV pumper vehicle in a short time and owe great thanks to you for helping us achieve this goal!

Sincerely,
Newfolden Fire Dept.

Dear Red Lake Electric Trust:

We recently received a donation in the amount of \$500 in support of the Senior Nutrition Program in Red Lake Falls. Thank you for your contribution. This gift will help us as we continue our program in your area.

We appreciate your help. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Monica
Senior Program Director
Moorhead

Dear Red Lake Electric Trust:

Thank you so much for the recent Operation Round Up Grant you awarded us, which will benefit the Marshall County Christmas Projects.

Your gift is appreciated and will be used to help fund the Christmas Sharing Tree and the Christmas Food Basket Projects. These projects provide food for the elderly and toys, clothes, winter gloves and quilts for children in need during the Christmas Season. These programs have been part of the Christmas season for years in Marshall County. Thank you for making it possible to continue the tradition of making Christmas merrier for those in need.

Thank you again for your generosity and for your continued support of these programs.

Sincerely,
Stacey Urbaniak
Marshall County
Social Services

Dear Red Lake Electric Trust:

Thank you to the Board of Directors of the Red Lake Electric Trust, Inc. for the grant to cover the cost of replacing our refrigerator. It is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Caryl Reed
ODC Thief River Falls

Dear Red Lake Electric Trust:

Thank you so much for the \$1000 grant for our Children's Visitation Center. The funds will be used as our application stipulated, to operate the center including staffing, supplies and maintenance. We know your board had many requests to consider and we greatly appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,
Sandi Bentley
Violence Intervention Project

Dear Red Lake Electric Trust:

Thank you so much for the Operation Round-Up check, as it will be used towards our Roof Replacement Project.

Sincerely,
Marie Adams
Goodridge Senior Center

Dear Red Lake Electric Trust:

The Goodridge Senior Citizen Members would like to thank the Board of Directors for the \$750 donation. We plan to use this generous gift to help with the expenses to replace the old shingles with steel. Thanks also to all of the Red Lake Electric members who voluntarily donated to the trust fund. A special thanks to the Red Lake Electric Trust Board of Directors for donating their time to serve on this board. You are appreciated very much.

Sincerely,
Gordy Henrickson
Vice President
Goodridge Senior Citizen Org.

Dear Red Lake Electric Trust:

Thank you so much for the donation. We plan to purchase patio furniture for a few of the homes. We may be alittle late this year for good deals on end of season sets, but will purchase next year.

We announced your donation to our 80+ staff who work in the seven homes in RLE/TRF.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Deb Vigness and all the staff
and consumers from PCS
(Prairie Community Service)

Dear RLEC:

To the wonderful staff and workers who got our electricity back on at 10:30 p.m. on October 4 2012. We want to thank you for your hard work.

Sincerely,
Willard and Joann Brunelle
Crookston

Operating Report

MONTHLY COMPARISON

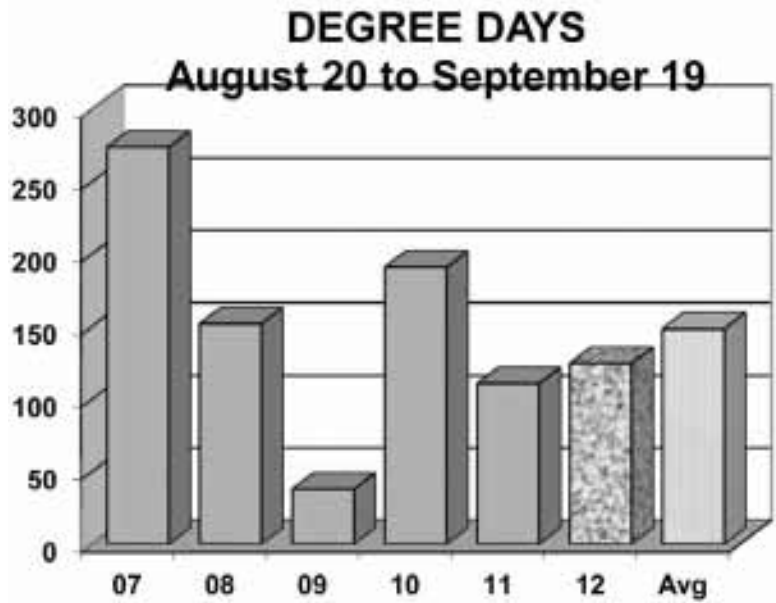
	AUGUST 2011	AUGUST 2012
Total Revenue	\$ 859,678	\$ 1,022,179
Total Margins	\$ (97,594)	\$ 51,782
Cost of Power	\$ 710,935	\$ 720,722
KWH's Purchased	8,280,003	9,151,905
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 4,464	\$ 3,835

YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

	AUGUST 2011	AUGUST 2012
Total Revenue	\$ 8,565,400	\$ 8,861,241
Total Margins	\$ 245,361	\$ 642,997
Cost of Power	\$ 6,285,128	\$ 6,344,833
KWH's Purchased	95,556,307	85,811,762
New Service Connections	37	24
Customers Served	5,201	5,218
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 65,778	\$ 70,933
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,324	2,323
Underground	239	249

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.



by **Megan McKoy-Noe, CCC**

Replacing old windows boosts a home's energy efficiency, but by how much? A new study from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) cautions consumers not to expect all claims to live up to perceived expectations. Energy-efficient windows offer lower heating, cooling, and lighting costs; in fact, replacing old windows with qualified models can cut a home's energy bill 7 percent to 15 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy's ENERGY STAR program. But true energy savings depends on proper installation and the type of windows installed—facts that folks often miss when reading window advertisements.

"Energy efficiency and cost savings are major factors for many consumers buying replacement windows," explains David

Vladeck, director of the FTC Bureau of Consumer Protection. "The FTC is committed to making sure that the information consumers get is accurate and that marketers can back up the claims they make." To understand how consumers perceive advertised savings, a 2012 FTC study evaluated how 360 consumers in North Carolina, New York, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Washington interpreted the potential energy One of the ads evaluated displayed the following text (in uppercase letters): "PROVEN TO SAVE UP TO 47 PERCENT ON YOUR HEATING AND COOLING BILLS!" Another version removed the words, "up to," while a third version added this disclosure statement: "The average owner saves about 25 percent on heating and cooling bills."

More than one-third of con-

sumers who saw the "Up To" version reported the advertised windows would save most homeowners 47 percent on their energy bills—a far cry from the true average energy savings. However, including a disclosure statement did not weaken the ad's impact.

"The FTC believes this report will help guide advertisers to avoid the use of misleading "up to" claims," Vladeck notes. Earlier FTC studies stopped misleading or deceptive advertisements from five replacement windows manufacturers.

A window shopping guide is available at www.ftc.gov/bcp/consumer.shtm>Energy>Shopping for New Windows.

Sources: *Federal Trade Commission, ENERGY STAR*

The Gazette only \$29 in Red Lake County

<p>Farmers Union Oil Company Thief River Falls 218-681-3512</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertilizer • Petroleum products • Town and country deliveries • Tires, batteries, accessories • Farm supplies 	<p>WILCOX PLUMBING AND HEATING, Inc. RED LAKE FALLS</p> <p><i>Plumbing/Heating/Air conditioning</i></p> <p>BILL H. MOSER, Master Plumber License No. 1770PM BILL J. MOSER, Master Plumber License No. 6039PM Refrigerant Certified No. CFR089400285</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-floor heating • Oil furnaces • Pressure systems • Gas furnaces • Electric heat pumps <p>FREE ESTIMATES COMPLETE SALES AND SERVICE</p> <p>218-253-4347</p>	<p>The Head-Quarters Hair and Tanning Salon</p> <p>HAIRSTYLING FOR MEN AND WOMEN</p> <p>PARK PLACE MALL RED LAKE FALLS, MINNESOTA</p> <p>218 253-4223</p>	<p><i>Security</i> STATE BANK</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating loans • Vehicle loans • Farm real estate loans • Consumer loans <p>"We appreciate your business."</p> <p>218-796-5157 Fax 218-796-5158 anthony.holthusen@ssboklee.com</p>   	<p>"THE FARMERS' HELPING HAND"</p> <p>Dave Miller Agency</p> <p>DAVE MILLER, AGENT RURAL ROUTE 1 VIKING, MINNESOTA 56760</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All-Risk Crop Insurance • Crop/Hail Coverage <p>218-523-5861</p>
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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Fallon family celebrates Century Farm status

The Wild Rose Farm, owned by Bernard and Renee Fallon, was named a Minnesota Century Farm in 2011. The Farm, near Plummer, MN, was started by Bernard's grandparents, Michael J Fallon and Mary Fallon, in 1911. The couple moved from Iowa in search of land to farm. Michael had liked the area when he saw it during a train ride to Winnipeg and decided that's where he wanted to live. The property had many trees, which Mary was not fond of. Michael showed Mary the place was beautiful because of all of the roses that were between the trees. He named the place "Wild Rose Farm" as a tribute to the wild roses. Mary spent only eleven years on the farm and passed away in 1922.

The couple had two sons, Mike and Joe. Joe went into the army as a mechanic. Mike stayed on the farm and continued to help his father until Mike's death at age 24. Joe soon returned to help his father and eventually took over the farm in 1950."Joe came home to help and never left," said Bernard.

Joe married Monica Willet and they had 7 children, Tom, Joanne, David, Beverly, Martin, Donald and Bernard. Bernard is the youngest of those children. The family farmed sheep and dairy cows until 1987 when they changed to farming small grains and corn. Joe also worked off the farm as a welder and a milk carrier during tougher times. Several of Bernard's siblings come back to the farm to visit and deer hunt on the property.

Bernard and Renee were married in 1977. Bernard continued to help his father farm the land and the couple built a home on the property. They had three children, Jolene, Benjamin, and Brian.

"I grew up on the farm," says Bernard, "Now most of the land is in CRP but we do farm some. Our son Brian helps." Bernard also works at an elevator in Hazel, MN and Renee is a Nurse. Renee also had farming in her family as she spent many summers as a child on her grandparents farm in Goodridge, MN.

Their daughter Jolene and her husband Kyle built a home in 2009 on the farm just a short distance from the Fallon home.

"Life is good out here. It's a beautiful place on the Clearwater River and it's peaceful," says Kyle, "It takes a family to keep the farm going."

The couple had a gathering last summer to celebrate the century farm milestone. It also served as a family reunion for the Fallon family. Over 300 people showed up to celebrate the occasions, which even (3728012.01 Robert Niemi) included fireworks. Bernard's brother David wrote a poem for the celebration about the farm.

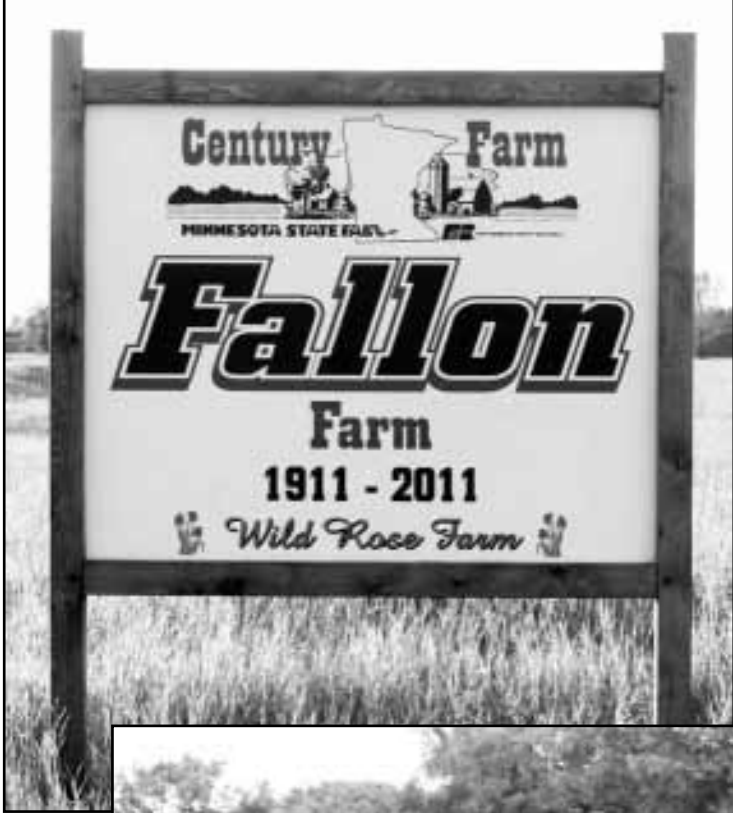
"It was fun," says Renee, "We had a good time. A lot of Joe and Monica's grandchildren had spent time on the farm over the years so it was nice to have them come back."

Bernard and Renee are proud to be a part of a century farm. They erected a large sign at the end of their driveway to commemorate the certification.

"It's nice to see the farms stay," explains Renee, "A lot have disappeared over the years." Bernard knows he was destined to be a part of the farm. "It gets in your blood and its hard to stay away from," he says of farming, "Planting in the spring is my favorite time of year." Their son Brian, who rents land to farm from Bernard and Renee, shares that sentiment as he continues the farming legacy, "Its one of those things you always know, I'd rather sit in a tractor. As long as you are happy with what you are doing and that's what I'm happy doing. I'm trying to follow in Dad's shoes."



A view of the farm showing the old granary to the left which is the only original building left from 1911. The house on the right is Kyle and Jolene's and replaced the original house that was 96 years old.

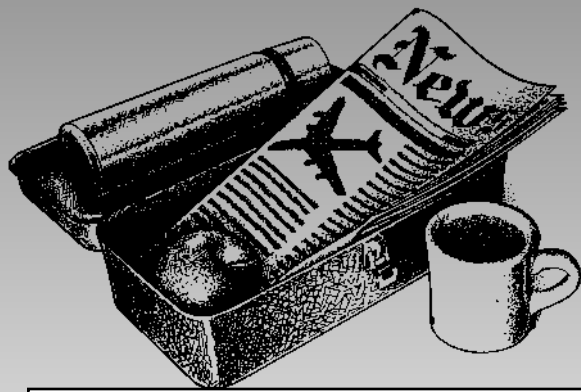


Bernard and Renee Fallon with the century farm cake. The Fallon's three children, from left, Ben, Kyle Qualley and wife Jolene and Brian were raised on the farm.



The Fallons at the century party and wearing the Fallon Century Farm t-shirts. Third, fourth and fifth generations of the Fallon family were represented. Only one family member, Tom Fallon, missed the gathering at the farm.

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October is Co-op Month

Minnesota co-ops make you proud to be member-owner

Minnesota became one of the first states to enact a law authorizing cooperatives and has the largest number of cooperatives in the nation.

According to a study by the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, 3.4 million cooperative members in Minnesota depend on approximately 1,000 co-ops providing services ranging from agricultural products to finances, energy and health care. Minnesota co-ops annually record about \$34 billion in revenue and they employ approximately 46,000 Minnesota residents.

Electric cooperatives

Electric cooperatives play a vital role in their rural communities, providing reliable electricity and so much more. Minnesota has 45 electric co-ops that distribute electricity (7336004.03 Bill Knutson) and several co-ops that generate and transmit power, including Red Lake Electric Cooperative. The state's electric co-ops cover 85 percent of the geographic area in Minnesota with more than 121,000 miles of power lines and \$1 billion in revenues.

Grain, farm supply and fuel co-ops

Approximately 175 retail farm supply cooperatives provide crop inputs, animal feed, grain marketing and petroleum products, along with other services to farmers and residents. These cooperatives and their regional wholesale cooperative suppliers, CHS Inc. and Land O' Lakes, are responsible for \$5.5 billion of annual retail sales in Minnesota. CHS Inc. and Land O' Lakes also rank as two of the largest employers headquartered in Minnesota with combined revenues of nearly \$36 Billion annually.

Dairy cooperatives

Minnesota's dairy cooperatives market over 85 per-

cent of the milk produced in the state. Minnesota dairy cooperative members include: CROPP Organic Valley, Dairy Farmers of America Inc., Foremost Farms USA, Land O' Lakes, Bongards' Creameries and Swiss Valley Farms.

Farm credit services

Together, the following federally chartered farm credit cooperatives finance Minnesota farm families and agri-businesses with \$4.1 billion in loans: AgStar Financial Services, Farm Credit Services and AgriBank. AgriBank, headquartered in St. Paul, is the largest farm credit bank in the U.S. with more than \$62 billion in annual loan volume. CoBank also services agricultural co-ops, utility co-ops and other needs in rural Minnesota.

Credit unions

Credit unions are not-for-profit financial cooperatives owned and governed by members via volunteer boards of directors. Credit union earnings are returned to owner/members in the form of lower loan rates, higher interest on deposits and lower loan rates, higher interest on deposits and lower fees. Approximately 130 credit unions exist in Minnesota.

Health care

Minnesota's health care cooperatives are a diverse lot. HealthPartners HMO is a non-profit which follows cooperative (4423002.03 Bert and Christine Foster) principles and a new health care cooperative for farmers is currently being developed.

Ethanol cooperatives

One of the fastest growing Minnesota cooperative sectors is the ethanol industry. These member-owned, bio-based facilities are breathing renewed life into the Minnesota countryside.

Food co-ops

The Twin Cities metro area boasts the highest concentration of food co-ops of any metro area in the U.S.

Telecommunications

Minnesota is home to local telephone co-ops that offer advanced telecommunications services and help rural Minnesota compete in a world economy.

Sugar co-ops

100 percent of sugar production in Minnesota occurs at co-op facilities.



Information courtesy of cooperativenetwork.com
Reprinted from "Connections"

In recognition of Co-op Month, Red Lake Electric Cooperative is awarding \$5-\$50 energy credits to five of its members. A random drawing was conducted and the winners of the \$50 credits include: Juanita Brown, Goodridge, Kevin and Patty Davidson, Newfolden; Bruce Johnson, Thief River Falls; Curtis Beyer, Red Lake Falls; and Ronald Lancot, Crookston.



Thibert wins auto-pay drawing

To show appreciation to members who use Red Lake Electric Cooperative's automatic payment service and to encourage additional members to use auto-pay, a drawing of auto-pay participants was held October 5 for a \$100 energy credit. The winner of the \$100 credit was John Thibert of Red Lake Falls. He is presented a certificate by Shirley Bregier, Red Lake Electric accountant.

AUTO PAY OFFERED BY RLEC

Red Lake Electric Cooperative is pleased to offer you Auto Pay. Now you can have your monthly energy bill paid automatically from your checking or savings account. You can receive the Auto Pay service by completing the Auto Pay sign-up sheet and returning it to Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

The Auto Pay service is free of charge. Not only is this service free, you will eliminate the expense of writing a check, postage to mail your payment and no more late payment penalties because your bill will be paid on time, every month, for you.

Your payment will be automatically made for you on the 5th of each month. If the 5th falls on a weekend or holiday, the payment will be made on the next business day. You will continue to receive your monthly energy bill as you have in the past, indicating the amount that will be withdrawn from your bank account. The proof of your payment will appear on your bank statement and your next month's energy bill statement.

Continue to pay your monthly bill until you are notified on your bill that the Auto Pay has been set up for you.

If you have any questions about the Auto Pay please call RLEC at 800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.

AUTO PAY

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