



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. 44 – NO. 10

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

AUGUST 2009

Knutson to serve as Trust Board Director

Randy Knutson, Newfolden, has been selected (4904004.01 Terry Haugen) to serve as a Red Lake Electric Cooperative Trust Board Director. The Trust Board determines grants for Red Lake Electric's Operation RoundUp program.

"Operation RoundUp is an awesome program for the few pennies it costs each member each month," stated Knutson. "It will be a privilege to work with the nonprofit organizations and charities that receive grants from the program. So many have benefited from this program and all Cooperative members benefit indirectly."

Knutson has been permanently disabled since the early 1980s, but this does not keep him from serving his community. He has served as a board member of Zion Lutheran Church of Viking for many years and currently serves as congregational president. Knutson has also been involved with the Living at Home Block Nurse Program and the Marshall/Kittson County Special Needs for Children Committee. He has been a resident of the Newfolden/Viking area all of his life.

Randy's wife is Joy Knutson. She is employed by UPS and has worked many years for the U.S. Census Bureau. Knutson's are the



Randy Knutson

parents of three sons, Travas of Moorhead, Tony of Viking and Tyler of Devils Lake, N.D. who is married. Randy and Joy have been blessed with two grandchildren in recent months.

Knutson will join other trust board directors Kim Swanson of Thief River Falls, Bonnie Cote of Trail and Henry Wieland and Roger Johanneck of Red Lake Falls.

Operation Round Up® grant applications are due Sept. 9

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

Operation Round Up is a program adopted by RLEC headquartered in Red Lake Falls. Customers choosing to "round up" their monthly electric bill payment provide funds for this effort. More than 85 percent of RLEC members now choose to contribute pennies each month to enhance their communities.

Funds will be donated primarily to nonprofit organizations to help fund specific projects or programs. Since the program began in 1993, \$319,428 has been granted to community organizations and charities. Money is donated for the betterment of the community within the

outside service area boundaries of RLEC.

The Red Lake Electric Trust Board of Directors determines grants. Board members are Kim Swanson, Thief River Falls; Bonnie Cote, Trail; Randy Knutson, Newfolden; Roger Johanneck and Henry Wieland, Red Lake Falls.

To apply for Operation 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 from the organization. The grant application form is available on the Cooperative's Web site: www.redlakeelectric.com.

For more (6236005.05 Randy Magnell) information contact Roger Johanneck, general manager of RLEC, at 253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

Marshall County 4-H members receive awards

Red Lake Electric Cooperative sponsors awards for the 4-H livestock exhibits at the Red Lake, Pennington and Marshall County Fairs each year. Pictured are the Marshall County recipients. The

Red Lake and Pennington County recipients were in the July "Volts and Jolts" issue.

Photos compliments of Marshall County Extension Service.



Dustin Dahl, Newfolden, was awarded a prize for swine showmanship on behalf of Red Lake Electric Cooperative at the Marshall County Fair. The fair was held July 29 through Aug. 2 in Warren. Dustin is the son of Kelly and Alice and a New Maine 4-H Club member.



Colton Laymon, Warren, received a swine showmanship award at the Marshall County Fair. The award was sponsored by Red Lake Electric Cooperative. The fair was held July 29 through Aug. 2. Colton is the son of Brian and Denise Laymon and a member of the New Maine 4-H Club.

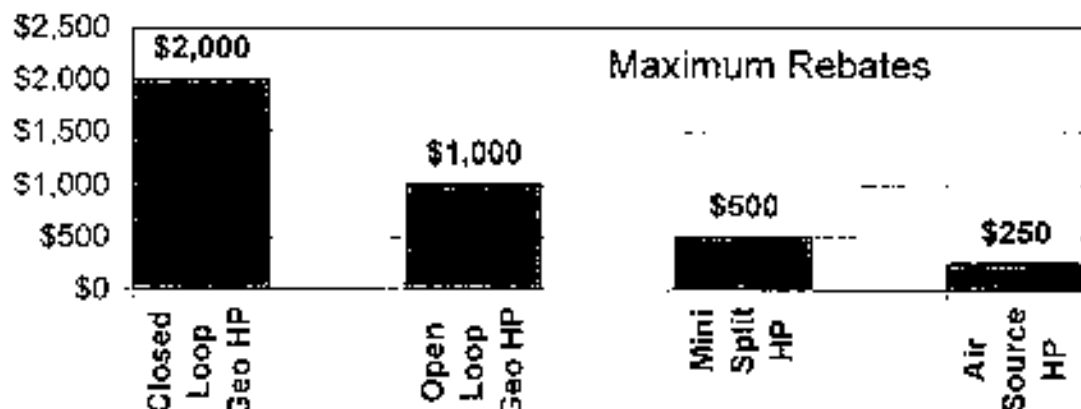
QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Red Lake Electric Cooperative promotes energy conservation by offering rebates to customers who purchase any of the following new equipment that are Energy Star® rated products. Products that meet or exceed energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental protection agency are easily identified by the Energy Star® logo. Call us today at 1-800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168 if you have any questions on how to qualify for your Energy Star® rebate from Red Lake Electric Cooperative.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative Heat Pump(HP) Rebates!



DeHaan's service spans more than 34 years

After more than 34 years of service to the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Dave DeHaan has retired. He began his employment Feb. 3, 1975 and his last day as a Red Lake Electric employee was July 7, 2009.

DeHaan began his employment in the line department as a ground man. A short time later he took the job as machine operator followed by an apprentice lineman position. In Feb. 1983, DeHaan took the job as warehouse/material clerk, which he held until his retirement. His duties in this position exceeded those of maintaining the warehouse and ordering line material.

Using auto cad, DeHaan developed the Cooperative's current maps and entered pole/staking sheet data. In recent years he was involved with many aspects of metering which included testing meters, programming meters for the



Dave DeHaan

appropriate substations, doing maintenance of the automatic meter readers (Turtle systems) and wiring three-phase meter setups.

DeHaan and his wife Laurie reside in Lake Pleasant Township south of Red Lake Falls where he serves as Township Chairperson. Both Dave and Laurie are active members of

the Patriot Guard Riders. Laurie is employed at Digi-Key Corporation in Thief River Falls.

DeHaan's are the parents of two children. Their son Ben, his wife Patti and daughter Elsie live in Red Lake Falls. DeHaan's daughter Angie lives in Fargo, N.D.

When reflecting on the past, DeHaan stated how the equipment at the Cooperative has changed over the years. "When I started at the Cooperative, we had several Army surplus vehicles and only had one bucket truck," said DeHaan. "All the service vehicles were two-wheel drive. Today all of them are four-wheel drive and there are five bucket trucks."

In his spare time, DeHaan hopes to (2312002.02 Geraldine Lindemoen) enjoy more shooting and reloading, wood-working, gardening and motorcycle riding.



Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



Why all the blinks?

Unless things change soon, the cool temperatures that have marked our spring and summer seasons so far might have us reflecting on 2009 as the year without a summer.

While temperatures may have not been what we expected so far this year; rain and lightning seem about normal for us. Along with the summer thunderstorm season comes service interruptions, sometimes which, are very short in nature. These short interruptions in power or "blinks" as we often refer to them, have been an irritant of late in parts of our service area.

While we have heard about the blinks from some of you, we know that there are more that have noticed the blinks and not bothered to call and tell us.

The recent calls that have been prompted by the blinks, have come from customers served by our Hazel, Terrebonne and Huot substations. Our energy supplier, Minnkota Power Cooperative, is also working on the blink problem that has affected your service. Both transmission (Minnkota's lines) and distribution (Red Lake Electric's lines) have been patrolled to look for the obvious problems, like trees on the line, in the areas that serve and are served by these substations.

So far, these line patrols have not revealed any likely culprits. Minnkota has isolated the line feeding power to the Huot substation located just west of Red Lake Falls. Since that line switch, blinks and calls have been reduced to cus-

tomers served on the Huot substation.

While blinks can be annoying, they often are an indication that our electrical system protection equipment is working the way it is designed to work. Blinks occur when a fault is present on the line. The fault condition could be caused by a tree touching the line, live-stock rubbing on guy wires, lightning, or an animal or a bird shorting the line.

The blink occurs when protective equipment called an oil circuit recloser (OCR) detects a fault on the line. The OCR will automatically open the line for a second and then (6023002.11 Wayne Schultz) recloses it. The automatic re-closure has some obvious advantages over the circuit breaker that is used to protect the wiring and electrical equipment in your home and business.

When a fault occurs at home and a breaker in your service panel trips, or a fuse is blown, you need to manually reset the breaker or replace the fuse. With an OCR, if the fault no longer remains on the power line after the OCR re-closes, just one blink occurs. If the fault is still present after the first recloser, the OCR will automatically open again for a second.

If after opening and reclosing three times in rapid succession the fault is still present, the OCR will stay open and a line outage occurs. Our crews then need to find the problem that has caused the fault,

repair it and then reclose the OCR manually to restore power.

In addition to the nearly 2,600 miles of distribution power line delivering energy through out Red Lake Electric Cooperative's service area, Minnkota also has hundreds of miles of transmission line that are exposed to the elements mother nature and human activity can deliver.

These many miles of exposure make our electric system vulnerable to outages and short interrupting blinks. There is a considerable amount of time and money spent on system design and maintenance to reduce the frequency of line outages and momentary blinks, but we can't make the system totally immune to our elements. We appreciate your understanding and patience of this as we work to solve our line quality issues.

We're working to be a source of reliable energy for you; you have our continued pledge for that.

Retirement

After 34-plus years of employment, Dave DeHaan has called it a career here at Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Dave is a talented individual and his ability to do a variety of tasks was helpful to the Cooperative and it's customers.

On behalf of our customers, directors and employees of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, I wish you well Dave; may retirement be all that you hope it will be and more.

Fluorescent bulb recycling: good for the environment – and it's the law

Used fluorescent light bulbs require special care because they contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing. Because mercury is harmful to our environment and poses a health risk, Minnesota law prohibits the disposal of fluorescent light bulbs in household garbage.

Fluorescent bulbs must be taken

to a qualified facility for storage and recycling. Residents must take their used bulbs to their county facility. Some county facilities accept them without charge to residents of their county but some may charge a small fee.

Following are the fluorescent bulb disposal sites in the Red Lake Electric service area:

- Marshall County: Hardware Hank Stores in Newfolden and Warren or call Environmental Services at 218-745-6007.

- Pennington County: Les's Sanitation, Hwy. 32 South, Thief River Falls.

- Polk County: Polk County Waste Transfer Station, 320 Ingersol Avenue, Crookston, or Recycling Center, Industrial Park, Foston.

- Red Lake County: Demolition Landfill, Red Lake Falls.



Report from the Office

by Shirley Bregier

Auto Pay promotion

Once again we are promoting our Auto Pay service with a drawing for 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. All you have to do to become eligible for the drawing is be signed up for Auto Pay by Oct. 5.

The Cooperative has been offering Auto Pay to our customers for over 10 years. Even though a third of our customers pay their bill automatically, the rest continue to write out and mail a check to us each month.

If the reason you haven't started Auto Pay is that you are not sure what we do with your bank account, I can assure you that we keep your account information confidential. We don't have access to your bank account. Each month, we give (5511002.01 Patsy Johnson) the bank a listing of the amounts we need to collect from each account and the bank moves

that amount from your account to ours in a simple but very secure process.

This saves you the time of writing out a check and the postage to mail it to us. It also assures you that your bill is paid each month no matter where your life takes you. It also saves the Cooperative the time of processing your check and gives the employees time to do other tasks more informative and helpful to our customers.

In your electric bill, both this month and again in September, you will find an Auto Pay sign-up sheet. If you wish to sign up for Auto Pay, simply fill in the form and return it to us with your payment. Not only will you begin enjoying the ease of Auto Pay but your name will be included in the drawing for \$100 on Oct. 5. If Auto Pay doesn't work out for you, you can stop it at any time.

If you have any questions about Auto Pay, give our office a call at 800-245-6068 or e-mail us at redlake@minnkota.com.

From the Mail Bag

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for sponsoring 4-H Showmanship at the Marshall County Fair.

Sincerely,
Colton Laymon
Warren

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for donating the trophy that I won in Swine Showmanship at the Marshall County Fair.

Dustin Dahl
New Maine 4-H

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for sponsoring the Rate-of-Gain Beef award at the recent county fair. I named my steer Mojo. I had fun showing him and your support to the 4-H program is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Alanis Rupprecht
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for sponsoring the champion ewe award at the Pennington County Fair. Thanks for supporting our 4-H program.

Samantha Larson
Silverton 4-H

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for the \$25 to the Dairy Exhibit. It was greatly appreciated. Thanks again.

Teja Beyer
Red Lake Falls

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for sponsoring the top dairy production award that I received at the 2009 Pennington County Fair, and thank you for your support of 4-H.

Sincerely,
Seth Rupprecht
Silverton 4-H



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 \$50 collection fee will be charged to your account, even if you pay the collector.

To have a disconnected service reconnected, all amounts owing, a \$50 reconnection fee, and a security deposit must be paid. If the service must be reconnected after normal working hours, a \$100 reconnection fee must be paid.

BAD CHECKS

A \$15 charge will be levied each time a check is returned because of nonsufficient funds, account being closed or payment stopped.

OUTAGES

In case your electricity goes out, please do the following:

1. Check your fuses or breakers at the yard pole or meter pedestal.
2. Call your neighbor to see if they are out of electricity also.
3. Call the RLEC office (218-253-2168 or 1-800-245-6068) during working hours or 218-253-2200 after hours. We will accept collect calls for outages only.

METER TESTS

RLEC has a schedule in place to have its meters periodically tested for accuracy. Results from these tests show that meters generally slow down with age; however, if you think that your meter is recording too much usage, RLEC will test it for accuracy. You must pay a test fee in advance of the test. If the meter test shows that the meter was inaccurate, the test fee will be refunded to you.

STOPPED METERS

If you find your meter has stopped and you are using electricity, please contact the office immediately so we can replace it. Average consumption will be billed to the member for the time the meter was stopped so there is no advantage in not reporting a stopped meter.

METER READINGS

An automated meter reading system is utilized to obtain monthly meter readings. Although the system is normally reliable, there is always a chance that the correct reading has not been transmitted to the office for billing. Customers should periodically read their meter and compare it to the reading on the billing statement. If the actual reading is not close to the billing statement reading, please call the office.

GENERAL SERVICE RATES

Facilities charge variable \$17 to \$23 month
First 500 KWH9.0¢ Kwh
Over 500 KWH (April-Dec.)6.6¢ Kwh
Over 500 KWH (Jan.-Mar.)7.5¢ Kwh
Multiphase users add \$17/month cost of service charge.

Standby, \$9/month (meter disconnected but the power line retained; standby is not available on services larger than 15 KVA transformer capacity).

Security light, \$7/month, high pressure sodium, \$8/month, mercury vapor; water heater flat credit, \$5/month (on January-April billing); off-peak equipment charge, \$4/month per heat meter; off-peak electric heat rate, 4.0¢/kWh long-term control, 5.8¢/kWh short-term control.

Closed Labor Day

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

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

Have a safe Labor Day weekend.

Extension cord safety checklist

- Do you always inspect extension cords for wear and damage before you use them?
- Do you use extension cords ONLY temporarily? Extension cords are for temporary use only. Have a licensed electrician install additional circuits if necessary.
- Do you make sure that extension cord ratings are at least as high as the appliances they power?
- Do you keep extension cords away from foot traffic?
- Do you unwind extension cords fully before use? Knotting or kinking electrical cords can cause internal wires to break, which could pose an electrical fire hazard.
- Do you use extension cords that have been knotted or kinked?
- Do you use extension cords near sinks?
- Do you plug grounded (three-pronged) cords into ungrounded (two-pronged) extension cords? Never remove the ground (third) prong of a three-pronged extension cord or attempt to insert it into an ungrounded (two-pronged) outlet.
- Do you ensure that the only extension cords you use outdoors are rated for outdoor use?
- Do you use more than one extension cord in a string? Do not string extension cords together, heat could build up and start a fire.
- Do you plug several extension cords into one outlet?
- Do you run extension cords under rugs or carpets?

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International.

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

WE PROUDLY PRESENT TO YOU

The Red Lake Electric Cooperative Customer Service Guarantee



It's short and simple! Red Lake Electric Cooperative employees will meet or exceed your expectations of friendly, courteous service and will meet any commitments they make to you. If your expectations of the service provided by our employees is not met, please contact me at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative office, 253-2168. You will receive \$5.00 for your inconvenience and our promise to serve you better in the future. Our employees' commitment to quality customer service makes this guarantee possible.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

ROGER JOHANNECK
General Manager

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc. VOLTS & JOLTS

(USPS 663-400)

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NOTICE

Hidden within the text of the articles on pages 1, 2, 3 and the back page of this issue of the Volts & Jolts are the names and account numbers of five RLEC members. They will appear within the articles in parenthesis as such (99-99-99-999-99 Roger P. Member). If you find your name and account number, clip it out and send it with your next payment. You will be credited with \$5 on your electric bill.

Recipe corner

Roast Beef and Potato Salad

2 c. cubed cooked roast beef
2 c. cubed peeled potatoes, cooked
1/2 c. chopped green pepper
1/2 c. thinly sliced celery
1/4 c. chopped onion
2 Tbsp. chopped pimientos
1/3 c. vegetable oil
2 to 3 Tbsp. vinegar
2 tsp. prepared horseradish
1/2 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. pepper
Lettuce leaves
2 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
In a large bowl, combine beef, potatoes, green pepper, celery, onion and pimientos. Combine the next five ingredients; mix well. Pour over beef mixture and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour. Serve on lettuce; sprinkle with parsley. Yield: 4 servings.

Cool Cucumber Pasta

8 oz. tube pasta
1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
2 medium cucumbers, thinly sliced
1 medium onion, thinly sliced
1-1/2 c. sugar
1 c. water
3/4 c. vinegar
1 Tbsp. prepared mustard
1 Tbsp. dried parsley flakes
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. pepper
1/2 tsp. garlic salt
Cook the pasta according to package directions; drain and rinse in cold water. Place in a large bowl; stir in oil, cucumbers and onion. Combine remaining ingredients; pour over salad and toss. Cover and chill for 3 to 4 hours, stirring occasionally. Serve with a slotted spoon.

Summertime Main Dish Salad

2-1/2 c. cubed fully cooked low-fat ham
1/3 c. chopped onion
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 tsp. dried oregano
1 tsp. dried thyme
1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
1/4 tsp. pepper
1 Tbsp. cooking oil
1/3 c. cider or red wine vinegar
4 c. cooked rice
3 c. diced cooked chicken
2 celery ribs, thinly sliced
1/2 c. julienned green pepper
1/2 c. julienned sweet red pepper
2 green onions with tops, sliced
1 pint cherry tomatoes
In a skillet over medium heat, saute the first seven ingredients in oil until vegetables are tender. Remove from the heat; stir in vinegar. Cool for 5 minutes. In a bowl, toss rice, chicken, celery, peppers and onions. Stir in the ham mixture. Cover and chill for at least 2 hours. Garnish with tomatoes. Yield: 9 servings. Diabetic Exchanges: One 1-cup serving equals 2 lean meat, 1-1/2 starch, 1 vegetable; also, 251 calories, 576 mg. sodium, 47 mg. cholesterol, 31 gm. carbohydrate, 18 gm. protein, 5 gm. fat.

Raspberry Delight

2-1/4 c. all-purpose flour
2 Tbsp. sugar
3/4 c. butter or margarine, softened
Filling:
1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
1 c. confectioners' sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1/4 tsp. salt
2 c. whipped topping
Topping:
1 pkg. (6 oz.) raspberry gelatin
2 c. boiling water
2 pkg. (10 oz. each) sweetened frozen raspberries
Additional whipped topping and fresh mint, optional
In a bowl, combine flour and sugar; blend in butter with a wooden spoon until smooth. Press into an ungreased 13-inch by 9-inch by 2-inch baking pan. Bake at 300 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until set (crust will not brown). Cool. In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, confectioners' sugar, vanilla and salt until smooth. Fold in whipped topping. Spread over crust. For topping, dissolve gelatin in boiling water; stir in raspberries. Chill for 20 minutes or until mixture begins to thicken. Spoon over filling. Refrigerate until set. Cut into squares; garnish with whipped topping and mint if desired. Yield: 12-16 servings.

Pasta with Chicken and Squash

1 pkg. (16 oz.) spiral pasta
2 c. whipping cream
1 Tbsp. butter or margarine
2 c. (8 oz.) shredded Mexican cheese blend or cheddar cheese
1 small onion, chopped
1 garlic clove, minced
5 Tbsp. olive or vegetable oil, divided
2 medium zucchini, julienned
2 medium yellow summer squash, julienned
1-1/4 tsp. salt, divided
1/8 tsp. pepper
1 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts, julienned
1/4 tsp. each dried basil, marjoram and savory
1/4 tsp. dried rosemary, crushed
1/8 tsp. rubbed sage
Cook pasta according to package directions. Meanwhile, heat cream and butter in a large saucepan until butter melts. Add cheese; cook and stir until melted. Rinse and drain pasta; add to cheese mixture. Cover and keep warm. In a skillet over medium heat, saute onion and garlic in 3 tablespoons oil until onion is tender. Add squash; cook until tender. Add 1 teaspoon of salt and pepper; remove and keep warm. Add remaining oil to skillet; cook chicken with herbs and remaining salt until juices run clear. Place pasta on a serving platter; top with chicken and squash. Yield: 8 servings.

Purple Plum Pie

4 c. sliced fresh plums (about 1-1/2 lb.)
1/2 c. sugar
1/4 c. all-purpose flour
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 Tbsp. lemon juice
1 unbaked deep-dish pastry shell (9 inches)
Topping:
1/2 c. sugar
1/2 c. all-purpose flour
1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
3 Tbsp. cold butter or margarine
In a bowl, combine the first six ingredients; pour into the pastry shell. For topping, combine sugar, flour, cinnamon and nutmeg in a small bowl; cut in butter until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Sprinkle over filling. Bake at 375 degrees for 50 to 60 minutes or until bubbly and golden brown. Cover edges of crust during the last 20 minutes to prevent over-browning. Cool on a wire rack. Yield: 8 servings.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Operating Report
MONTHLY COMPARISON

	JUNE 2008	JUNE 2009
Total Revenue	\$ 560,017	\$ 664,286
Total Margins	\$ (59,740)	\$ (26,367)
Cost of Power	\$ 389,459	\$ 456,457
KWH's Purchased	7,429,174	7,712,511
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 3,116	\$ 1,980

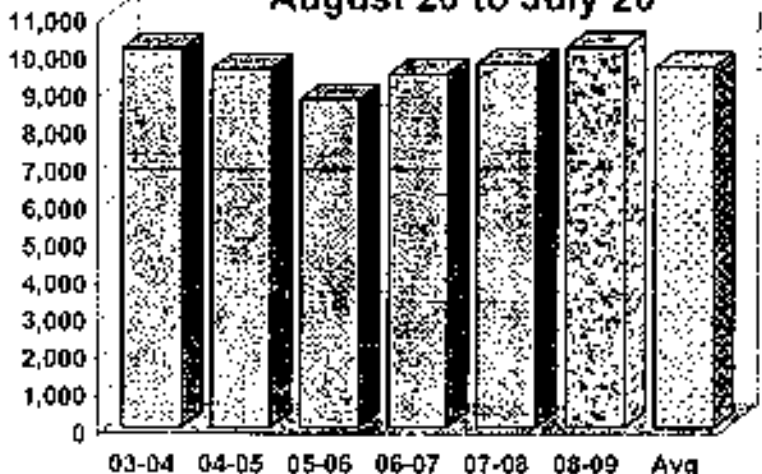
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

	JUNE 2008	JUNE 2009
Total Revenue	\$ 4,980,515	\$ 5,592,278
Total Margins	\$ 979,019	\$ 842,779
Cost of Power	\$ 3,049,100	\$ 3,387,602
KWH's Purchased	78,040,900	80,303,669
New Service Connections	19	6
Customers Served	5,108	5,157
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 29,184	\$ 32,428
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,323	2,319
Underground	231	235

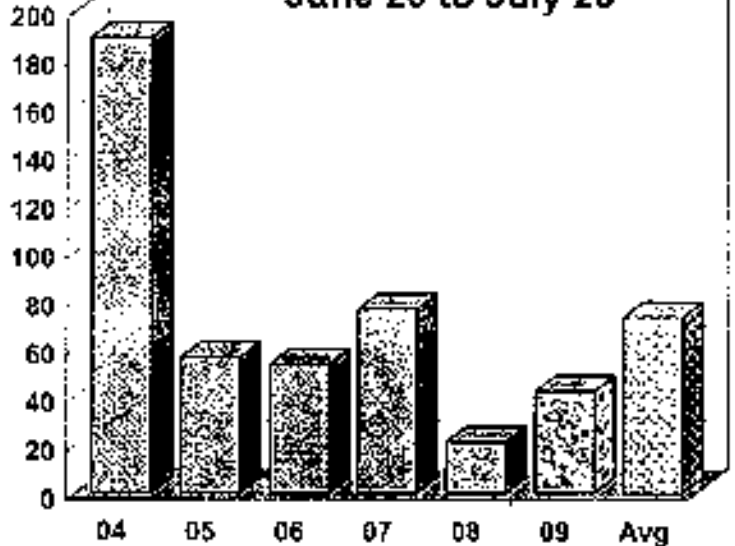
DEGREE DAYS

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.

YEAR TO DATE DEGREE DAYS
August 20 to July 20



DEGREE DAYS
June 20 to July 20



Light your way to savings

One of the lowest cost and most immediate ways to conserve electricity and to lower your monthly bill is to install compact fluorescent (CFL) light bulbs. These Energy Star-rated bulbs use about 75 percent less electricity than incandescent bulbs and will last up to 10 times longer. That can mean a savings of up to \$30 over the life of the bulb.

Additionally, CFL bulbs produce about 75 percent less heat than incandescent bulbs. That means they are safer to operate and can reduce energy costs for home cooling.

If you aren't replacing all the incandescent bulbs in your home at once, and few people do, be selective with CFL replacements. Install CFLs in fixtures that are "on" the most. They will save you the most electricity and will give you the best return on your CFL bulb dollars spent. For best efficiency, CFLs should be "on" for at least 15 minutes at a time.

When CFL bulbs came on the market a few years ago, only a few standard sizes were available. Some lamps or fixtures would not accommodate CFL bulbs at that time. Today, many sizes and shapes of CFL bulbs can be purchased, accommodating almost any fixture or lamp.

CFLs perform best in open fixtures that allow airflow, such as table or floor lamps, wall sconces and outdoor fixtures. For recessed fixtures, it is better to use a



reflector CFL than a spiral CFL since the design of the reflector evenly distributes light down to your task area.

Choose a qualified CFL that offers a shade of white light that works best for you. For example, while most CFLs provide warm or soft white light for your home, you could choose a cooler color for task lighting.

For more information on compact fluorescent lighting visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce link at www.redlakeelectric.com.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative is also offering up to a \$2 rebate on CFLs payable on 12 CFLs annually. The rebate form can be found on the Cooperative's Web site also.

Styles By Amy
We are your Full-Service Hair Salon

\$10 off Color or Highlight with a Stylecut

Haircuts • Colors • Perms • Hi-Lites
Lo-Lites • Makeup • Facials
Style/Up-Do • Waxing
Manicures • Pedicures

"The Most Fun You Can Legally Have With Hair"

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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Keeping busy with Lee and Lorna Nielson

By Destiny Harmoning

Lee and Lorna Nielson are a retired couple from Erskine who keep very busy with maintaining their lawn and participating in their many hobbies.

Lee grew up in the house that he and his wife now live in. He graduated from Northwest School of Agriculture in Crookston. Lorna grew up in Puposky, just north of Bemidji. She graduated from Bemidji High School.

Lee and Lorna were married 57 years ago in September 1952. They met while roller skating in Bemidji. Lee had been trying to impress Lorna and tripped and landed on her. "So I really fell for her," Lee said.

Before retiring, Lee worked at American Crystal Sugar in Crookston and was a full-time farmer. Lee was also a local assessor for 20 years and then a Red Lake County Commissioner for 14.

For Lorna, she worked for the Soil and Water Conservation District, the State of Minnesota and then was an office manager at a clinic, prior to retirement.

Lee and Lorna have five children, 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Their son Randy and his family live in Alabama. Randy retired as an Army commissioned warrant officer and now works for the government.

Their son Brian and his family live in Rosemount. He has a partnership with a plumbing, electric and hardware supply store in Minneapolis.

Their daughter Wanda is a Registered Nurse in the oncology and surgery departments at Altru Clinic in Grand Forks. Her and her children live in Grand Forks.

Their daughter Debra and her family live in Fertile. Debra is a Licensed Practical Nurse and Emergency Medical Technician.

Lee and Lorna Nielson

ect, which took six months to complete, included saw-belly curved drawers which required more labor.

Lee used to raise beef cattle with his father for 24 years, then raised dairy cattle for 25 years and then grain for 23.

He no longer farms but a quarter of the land is rented out to another farmer. A few quarters are also in CRP.

The old milk house on their property was converted into a wood shop for Lee to do his carpentry in.

Lee also likes to do mechanical work, welding and lawn work.

When Lee mows their lawn it takes a good portion of the day. In the first part of summer, he mows it two to three times per week. During the middle of summer, its down to about two times a week and toward the end, usually only once per week. Lee really enjoys his time mowing the yard. He said it reminds him of when he used to farm.

Lee has also done some landscaping around the yard including a rock display in the front yard that he built in 1976. One of the rocks in the display was recovered from a corn field. Lee tried to extract it with machinery, which resulted in a lot of damage to the equipment. So dynamite was used to lift the rock. Lee revamped the display about two years ago.

Lee also made another arrangement in their backyard. It started as a pile of dirt dug up from doing a foundation. Then Lee added rocks all over the top and finished it off with a railing. It now looks like a bridge.

Lorna enjoys gardening. She grows tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, peppers, carrots, string beans, squash, beets, peas, corn, potatoes, rhubarb and radishes.

Lorna also puts together a rummage sale twice a year in one of their out-buildings. This is another hobby that she enjoys.

So even though Lee and Lorna are retired, with all of their hobbies, they are as busy as ever.

Lee constructed this sewing table for Lorna out of their old kitchen cabinets.

Some landscaping in the Nielson's backyard arranged by Lee.

She also works at a school.

Their daughter Brenda and her family live in Boise, Idaho. She works at St. Luke's Hospital in human resources.

In their free time, Lee and Lorna enjoy reading books, listening to music and watching birds. Lorna also makes quilts, is a member of Homemakers and attends a Monday morning Bible study group. Lee and Lorna are active members of Fosston Baptist Church.

Lee spends a lot of time doing carpentry and has built a large variety of furniture, cabinets, doors and more in their home. "He makes anything I need," Lorna said.

It all started when Lee was going to school and he took a carpentry class. He enjoyed the work and continued on with it.

Lee has made a lot of furniture and other items for his family, including making beds for all of their children and grandchildren and making desk furniture, dining room sets, bathroom cabinets and cradles. The cradles are used with each new generation of their family.

In addition to building items for his family, Lee will build for others on a request basis. He does this as a hobby and is not in it for the money. Those interested in his wood-working skills can show him a picture of what they want built and tell him the type of wood they want it built out of and then he can make it.

"Now days its hard to get anything that's made out of real wood," Lee said. He noted the cheaper furnitures purchased at retail stores are often made of particle board, a material he won't work with.

One notable piece of furniture that Lee built for someone outside of the family was a slant-desk secretary for one of his daughter's friend, a nurse from Grand Forks. The friend had bought a bedroom set but the secretary piece was no longer available, so she asked Lee to build it for her. The proj-

Lorna uses one of their out-buildings to host a rummage sale twice a year where she sells antiques and homemade quilts and pillows.

Lee made many of the furnishings in the Nielson's home including the mantle to their fireplace.

A rock display in the Nielson's front yard.

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Line conversion spans from white snow to green grass and beyond

A five-mile section of three phase underground (UG) northeast of Viking has been replaced and converted to overhead for the most part. This stretch of UG had been installed in 1979.

It was anticipated that the UG should provide service for 40-50 years. It fell short of that as there had been numerous outages on this five-mile sec-

tion due to cable failure.

Due to the cost difference (UG being about twice the cost) it was decided to convert to a replacement overhead line where possible.

The conversion started in late March when there was still snow on the ground and a lot of surface water. Line crews worked on the project when

ground conditions and work load priorities permitted. With the restrictions, the conversion project was finally complete in early August. It is estimated the project cost will total \$125,000.



Conversion of an underground line to overhead, northeast of Viking, began in March. Members in the area experienced an outage due to another cable failure which prompted the conversion project to begin. Many of the three phase poles were set in less than ideal conditions due to snow and water.



Following the setting of poles for the new overhead line, wire was strung and tied in on the insulators.



Brett Knott, apprentice lineman, installs vibration dampners on the wires. Vibration dampners are used to help reduce wire movement due to wind or ice build up. Reducing wire movement helps to reduce the loosening of hardware on the structures.



Casey Thronson, lineman, wraps the wire with armor rod prior to the wire being tied to the insulators. Armor rod helps to prevent breakage of strands of wire due to movement and/or vibration of the wire.



Line crews work on all three sides of a three phase corner pole to isolate the corner pole taking it out of service for replacement. It is the last major task associated with the line conversion project. There is a breaker pole that will also be taken out of service as a new one had been constructed.



Ira Cota, lineman, uses a shotgun stick (insulated fiberglass stick) to install grounds, grounding out one set of wires leading to the pole that is to be changed. The leads to these wires have been cut allowing the wires to be de-energized and isolated. The grounds are installed to make sure the wires remains "dead" during the changeout.



Troy Schmitz, lineman, begins to remove the hardware from the old breaker pole as it is being retired. With this being a three phase line there is one breaker, or oil circuit recloser, for each phase.



Casey Thronson, top bucket, and Troy Schmitz work to finish dead ending the three sets of three phase wires that attach to the new three phase corner pole.



Once the replacement of the three phase corner pole has been completed, Dick Gervais uses a battery operated crimp tool to reconnect one set of wires that had previously been cut. He is equipped with rubber gloves and sleeves as the connections are being made to "hot" or energized wires.



During the change out of the three phase pole, lines had been rerouted and/or back fed so that all members were able to have electric service during the change out. Now that the change out has been completed the lines need to be switched back to the normal positions. This requires a tail-gate discussion (or in the case a front bumper session) so that every crew member is aware of the switching procedure. Tail-gate discussions are a safety mandate so that no crew member is ever put at risk and that all switching is done in the proper sequence. With the new overhead line in service it is anticipated the life of the line to span more than 50 years.

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Tips for the safe outdoor use of electricity

Working in the yard shouldn't be a shocking experience

Most of us think that we know enough about electricity to stay safe. After all, we are surrounded by it and use it everyday. However, each year hundreds of people die, thousands are injured and millions of dollars in property damage are caused by electrical hazards that could have been avoided.

Whether you are just headed out to do a little work in the yard or are off to take on more ambitious outdoor projects, following these few tips can help protect you, your home and your family from harm.

Equipment Safety

- Inspect electric tools for damage to its cords, plugs and wiring. Take the tool to a qualified professional for repair.
- Protect yourself from injury. Turn the electric tool off, unplug it and put it in the "lock" position when carrying or connecting attachments such as mower baskets or saw blades.
- Never leave electric tools unattended where children or other unqualified adults can misuse it.
- Store electric tools indoors to keep them protected from damage caused by water and excessive heat.

Protect Yourself

- Safety devices on outdoor electric tools are there for a reason. Make sure that they are always in place before operating.
- Invest in safety goggles, hearing protection, dust masks, gloves and other safety equipment as recommended for each tool.
- Wear the appropriate clothes for the job.

Never Take Electricity For Granted

- A ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) will automatically disconnect the power when an elec-

trocutation hazard exists.

- The National Electric Code now requires GFCIs in bathrooms, garages, kitchens and outdoor outlets.

- Protect outlets from the elements by making sure that they are covered when not in use.
- To help prevent electrical fires, keep dry leaves and other debris swept away from outdoor lighting, outlets and power cords.

Extension Cord Safety

- When working outdoors, use only weather-resistant heavy gauge extension cords marked "for outdoor use." These weather resistant cords have added safeguards designed to withstand the outdoor environment.
- Examine extension cords before each use. Damaged cords should be replaced immediately.
- Extension cords are for short term use and not for long term power solutions.
- Keep all outdoor extension cords and light strands clear of snow and standing water and well protected from the elements.
- Keep your work area clean and free from debris.

Power Line Safety

- Use wooden or fiberglass ladders when working near electrical wiring. Metal ladders conduct electricity and pose a threat of electrocution.
- Check surrounding work area to ensure that you will not accidentally come in contact with overhead power lines.
- Remember that power lines are underground as well. Before you dig to plant a tree or put in a fence, call 811 to mark all of the utility lines in your yard.

Generator Safety

- Never operate generators in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. Generators can produce high levels of carbon monoxide very quickly, which can be deadly. Use carbon monoxide detectors in nearby enclosed spaces to monitor levels.

- Check carbon monoxide detectors (and smoke detectors) monthly to ensure they are working properly.

- Do not connect generators directly to household wiring without an appropriate transfer switch installed. Power from generators connected directly to household wiring can backfeed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them.

- Make sure your generator is properly grounded.
- Use a GFCI to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries.

- Keep the generator dry.
- Make sure extension cords used with generators are rated for the load, and are free of cuts, worn insulation, and have three-pronged plugs.
- Keep children away from portable generators at all times.

ESFI reminds everyone that electricity is a powerful tool. It can also be a lethal hazard. Better safety standards have reduced electrical hazards can cause deaths, injuries and/or property damage. However, good safety habits are still the best prevention against electrical hazards.

For additional electrical safety information, visit www.electrical-safety.org or call 703-841-3229.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International.

ry bird hunting regulations apply.

Goose Seasons

Minnesota's regular goose season will open in conjunction with the duck season on Saturday, Oct. 3, except for Canada goose seasons in the West-Central Goose Zone, which will open on Thursday, Oct. 15. The daily bag limit will be two Canada geese statewide. Possession limits are double the daily bag limits. Efforts to increase Minnesota's daily goose bag to three statewide except for the West Central Goose Zone were not approved by the Mississippi Flyway Council.

Visit www.dnr.state.mn.us for more information.

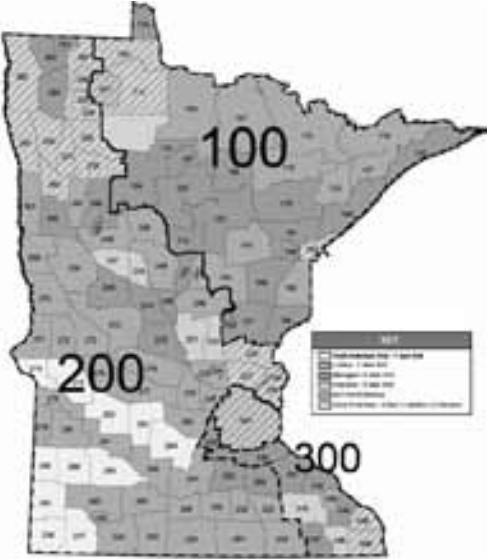
Either-sex deer permit deadline is Sept. 10

Minnesota hunters who hope to harvest an antlerless deer this fall will want to review regulations prior to Sept. 10, the deadline to apply for an either-sex permit. That's because over-the-counter, either-sex permits will be valid in significantly fewer areas this hunting season, especially in portions of northern and southwestern Minnesota. Therefore, hunters who typically did not need to apply for an either-sex permit will need to do so for this hunting season.

Nearly half of Minnesota's 127 deer permit areas are designated as "lottery" this year, according to Lou Cornicelli, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) big game program coordinator. "We encourage all deer hunters, no matter if they hunt with a firearm or muzzleloader, to determine the status of their hunting area now so that it doesn't come as a surprise to them after the Sept. 10 permit application deadline."

Archery hunters may harvest an antlerless deer in lottery areas without applying for an either-sex permit.

The DNR has reduced the number of deer permit areas where over-the-counter, either-sex permits are valid. In some parts of Minnesota, the deer population is now within management goals as a result of several years of abundant harvest coupled with a moderate to severe winter in northern Minnesota. In other areas, where the deer



population is below population goals, the restriction is an effort to increase deer numbers.

Hunters who are selected to receive an either-sex permit in a lottery area can harvest a buck or antlerless deer. Those who are not selected can harvest a buck only.

Dennis Simon, DNR wildlife section chief, said hunters younger than 18 who want to harvest an antlerless deer in a significant portion of southwestern Minnesota must apply for an either-sex permit by Thursday, Sept. 10. Only youth hunters selected by lottery will be allowed to harvest an antlerless deer in these areas.

"We made commitments through our goal-setting process to increase southwestern deer populations," said Simon. "To accomplish this, we need to restrict antlerless

deer harvest."

Permit areas affected by the change are 234, 237, 274, 275, 282, 283, 284, 286, 288, 289, 294. (see accompanying deer permit area map).

"We've been lowering lottery permits in these areas for several years, but that hasn't increased local deer populations," said Simon. "The next logical step is to allow only hunters younger than 18 who participate in a lottery for either-sex permits to harvest antlerless deer."

The other significant change is that muzzleloader hunters must apply for an either-sex permit if they want to harvest an antlerless deer in a lottery area. Unlike previous years, there is no exemption for a person who only hunts the muzzleloader season.

Hunters who choose to hunt in a lottery area and want the option of taking an antlerless deer must decide by Sept. 10 if they will hunt with a regular firearm or muzzleloader, stipulating that choice on the lottery application. If selected in the lottery, the permit will be valid only for the season the hunter specified on the application. Hunters who are not selected only may harvest a buck in lottery areas during the regular firearms and muzzleloader seasons.

Detailed information about deer season licenses and permit requirements is in the Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations and on the DNR Web site at www.mndnr.gov/deer.

Minnesota waterfowl season announcements

With continental populations of many species of ducks again near record highs, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has established a 60-day duck season that opens Oct. 3 with a daily bag limit of six ducks.

Bag limits for most species will be the same as last season, except hunters will be able to harvest one canvasback and the scaup limit will be two for the entire 60-day season. This good news for diver duck hunters is based on increased numbers of canvasbacks and scaup in the continental breeding duck survey.

Based on an increase in breeding waterfowl populations and pond numbers across Canada and the northern plains, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering states in the Mississippi Flyway, including Minnesota, a 60-day season that could include a six-duck limit with two hen mallards and three wood ducks. Minnesota will continue with a daily bag limit of one hen mallard that has been in place since 2005. Likewise, the DNR is maintaining a conservative approach to wood ducks by maintaining a two-bird limit.

The bag limits will continue to protect local breeding mallard and wood duck populations and will provide more opportunity for Minnesota hunters to benefit from high continental waterfowl populations if habitat conditions and weather cooperate, and migrant ducks move through the state in ample numbers.

"We knew the wood duck limit would be of interest to our hunters," said Steve Cordts, DNR waterfowl specialist. "So we reviewed the biological information, took some additional public input through a new online questionnaire, and in the end decided to maintain the two-bird limit again this year."

Duck Season

The regular waterfowl season will open Saturday, Oct. 3, at 9 a.m. and continue through Tuesday, Dec. 1. The six-duck bag may include no more than four mallards, with only one hen mallard, and one black duck, one pintail, one canvasback, two wood ducks, two redheads and two scaup. Possession limits remain at twice the daily bag limits.

Except for opening day, when shooting hours will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., shooting hours will be from one half hour before sunrise to 4 p.m. daily through Saturday, Oct. 10, and from one half hour before sunrise to sunset thereafter.

Motorized decoys or other motorized devices designed to attract migratory birds may not be used from the opening day of duck season through Saturday, Oct. 10. Motorized decoys or other motorized devices designed to attract migratory birds may not be used at any time during the season on water bodies and lands fully contained within state wildlife management area boundaries.

Additional details on the duck, goose and migratory bird hunting seasons will be in the 2009 Minnesota Waterfowl Hunting Regulations, available in mid-August.

Youth Waterfowl Day

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day will be Saturday, Sept. 19. Hunters age 15 and under may take regular season bag limits when accompanied by a nonhunting adult (age 18 and older, no license required). Canada geese, mergansers, coots and moorhens may be taken from one-half hour before sunrise to 4 p.m. Motorized decoy restrictions are in effect. New for this year, five geese may be taken statewide. There are no license requirements, except hunters age 13 to 15 must have a firearms safety certificate or an apprentice hunter validation in their possession. All other migrato-

Conservation Improvement Program incentives available

For the past five years, Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) has had to spend 1.5 percent of gross revenue on conservation programs. The bulk of the money was spent on rebates for Energy Star appliances and equipment.

Starting in 2010, as a directive from the state legislature, RLEC must spend money on conservation programs that yield electric energy savings. Energy conserved must equal 1.5 percent of the Cooperative's total annual kilowatt hour sales.

To meet this directive the Cooperative is launching new

Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) incentives. These incentives are more comprehensive than the previous offerings for both residential and business customers.

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

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

Rebate forms that list the

offerings are posted on RLEC website, www.redlakeelectric.com.

The forms are also available from the Cooperative or local electrical and heating/cooling contractors.

The accompanying tables list many of the incentives.

Custom applications may also apply to business customers. Most energy conservation measures can be explored to see if the measure qualifies for an incentive.

For additional information, contact RLEC at 253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

Business Energy Efficiency Incentives

<i>Energy Efficiency Equipment</i>	<i>Rebate Amount</i>
T8 Fluorescent Fixtures (Replacing T12 or incandescents)	\$5 to \$16 per fixture
T5 Fluorescent Fixtures (Replacing HID or incandescents)	Starting at \$60 per fixture
CFL Fixture	\$22/fixture
CFL Lamp	\$1.50/fixture
Split System Energy Efficient Air Conditioners and Air Source Heat Pump	\$30 to \$40/ton
Single Packaged Energy Efficient Air Conditioners and Air Source Heat Pump	\$35 to \$50/ton
Geothermal Heat Pump Open loop, 16.2 EER	\$200/ton
Geothermal Heat Pump Closed loop, 14.1 EER	\$400/ton
Energy Efficient Air Cooled and Water Cooled Chillers	\$30 to \$40/ton
Nema Premium® Three Phase Electric Motors	\$4 to \$15/HP
Energy Star Commercial Solid Door Refidgerator or Freezer	\$60 to \$250
Energy Star Ice Machine	\$200 to \$600
Energy Star Steam Cooler	\$300 to \$600
Energy Star Fryer	\$500
This list is not all inclusive. There are numerous other lighting retrofits. Other measures may also qualify. Any project totalling \$10,000 or more must receive written approval before project installation. Rebate maximum is 75% of project cost up to \$15,000.	

Residential Energy Efficiency Incentives

<i>Energy Efficiency Equipment</i>	<i>Rebate Amount</i>	<i>Rebate Maximum</i>
CFL Lamp (Maximum 12 lamps)	≤ 50% of retail not to exceed \$2	\$24 per customer
Energy Star Clothes Washer	\$50	\$50
High Efficiency Electric Water Heater 80 gallon or larger, EF ≥ 0.91, must be on load control	\$150/unit	\$150/unit
High Efficiency Furnace with ECM blower	\$150/unit	\$150/unit
High Efficiency Air Source Heat Pump 14.0 SEER, 8.2 HSPF	\$250/unit	\$250/unit
Geothermal Heat Pump Open loop, 16.2 EER	\$200/ton	\$1,000
Geothermal Heat Pump Closed loop, 14.1 EER	\$400/ton	\$2,000

