



# 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. 43 – NO. 10

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

AUGUST 2008

## Operation Round Up® grant applications are due Sept. 8

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. 8.

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, \$290,743 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 Rodney Hoffman, Goodridge; Kim Swanson, Thief River Falls; Bonnie Cote, Trail; 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 (7419003.02 Pearl Radi) form is available on the Cooperative's Web site: [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com).

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

## 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 air-



flow, such as (1223003.01 Thomes P. Gullikson) 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](http://www.redlakeelectric.com).

## 4-Hers receive awards

Each year Red Lake Electric Cooperative sponsors awards for 4-H livestock exhibitors at area county fairs. This includes the counties

of Marshall, Pennington and Red Lake.

This issue of the *Volts & Jolts* includes pictures of the award

recipients from the Marshall County Fair. Pennington and Red Lake County recipients were pictured in the July issue.



**Rebecca Murray, East Grand Forks, was awarded a prize by Red Lake Electric Cooperative at the Marshall County Fair. She is pictured with her champion rabbit and trophy. She is the daughter of Cindy Murray and is a member of the Oslo Super Stars 4-H Club. The Marshall County Fair was held July 24 through 27 in Warren.**



**Colton Laymon, Warren, was awarded a prize by Red Lake Electric Cooperative for his champion rabbit at the Marshall County Fair. The fair was held in Warren July 24 through 27. He is the son of Brian and Denise Laymon and is a member of the Comstock 4-H Club.**

Marshall County Extension Service Photos

## 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 (3826007.02 Kendall Jensen) 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.

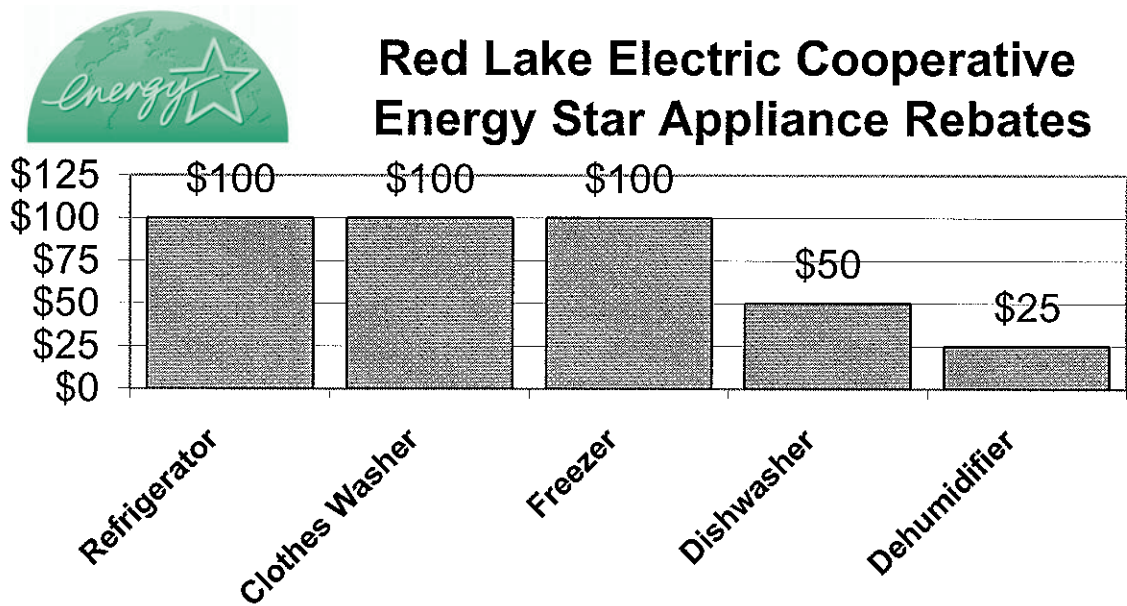
Following are the fluorescent bulb disposal sites in the Red Lake Electric service area:

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

### QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Red Lake Electric Cooperative promotes energy conservation by offering the following rebates to customers who purchase any of the following new appliances 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.



As farmers begin this season's harvest, it's essential to remember some important safety steps. The rush to harvest can reap grim results if steps to ensure safety are bypassed. Power lines must be thoughtfully avoided and taking that extra step can ensure you continue to have a safe and productive harvest.

Many farm electrical accidents that involve power line contacts happen when loading or preparing to transport equipment to the field or while performing maintenance or repairs on farm machinery near power lines. It can be difficult to estimate distance and sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. A spotter or someone with a broader view can help.

Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger, modern tractors. Also many tractors are equipped with radios and communication systems and have antennas extending from the cab to 15 feet above the ground that could make contact with power lines.

Overhead power lines aren't the only risk during this season. Pole guy wires are grounded and a supporting part of the pole or structure. If one is broken it can cause an electric current disruption and electric hazard or even cause the pole to break. If you hit a guy wire and break it call Red Lake Electric Cooperative immediately. Do not fix it yourself.

If you question the height of power lines near your work areas, don't attempt to measure the line heights yourself. Contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative to help determine line heights in each area of the farm.

The best way to handle a farm-related accident is prevention. Respect electricity and avoid contact with overhead lines. Look up and be safe this harvest season.



## Energy-efficient clothes washers

Energy Star-qualified clothes washers use the latest technology to substantially reduce energy and water consumption. They must boast a modified energy factor of at least 1.72 and a water factor no greater than 8.0 – criteria that generally limit them to front-loading and advanced top-loading models.

Front-loading washers use a horizontal or tumble-axis basket to lift and drop clothing into the water, instead of rubbing clothes around a central agitator in a full tub. These units use less energy than conventional clothes washers by reducing the amount of hot water needed to clean clothes.

Front-loading models also squeeze more water out of clothes by using spin speeds that are two to three times faster than conventional



washers, thereby reducing drying time and energy use.

New top-loading models typically employ spray valves to rinse clothes instead of using a new tub of water. Repeated high-pressure rinses that remove soap residue not only reduce the energy required for water heating but typically save an average of 15 gallons of water per

wash.

Qualified top-loading models also have sensors that monitor the incoming water temperature, keeping it hot enough to dissolve detergent and provide high-performance cleaning but cool enough to save energy and minimize damage to fabrics. This technology results in less hot water and less energy consumption.

– Source: NRECA Cooperative Research Network.





## Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



### Small wind generators: are they feasible?

Renewable energy is generating a lot of interest these days; we're reading and hearing about wind energy in the news on a regular basis. I have received phone calls and visits from customers who are curious to learn more about wind generation and whether or not it is feasible to purchase a small, residential-sized wind generator.

Wind energy, more than any other form of renewable energy, is receiving the bulk of interest in our part of the country. That's not surprising; there are many among us who think the wind blows all the time and more on weekends that include a fishing trip to Lake of the Woods. I have spent my share of trips to that lake watching and waiting from shore for the whitecaps to quit rolling so I could get back on the lake fishing.

As windy as we think it is in our service area, wind resource maps available on the Minnesota Department of Commerce Web site, [www.commerce.state.mn.us](http://www.commerce.state.mn.us) (click on Consumer Info and Services, Energy Info Center, Wind, Wind Maps) show we live in a good wind resource area but not the best.

While Red Lake Electric Cooperative does not have any experience with small-scale, residential wind generators, we are in the process of having a small wind turbine interconnect that should soon be completed. What we know about small-scale wind generators is what we have learned from other rural electric cooperatives in Minnesota and other states that have small-scale wind interconnects with their customers.

Small-scale wind generators typically have a capacity of 40 kW or less. Most recently, I read about a two-year test of a 10 kW wind turbine at a high school in Ohio. By comparison, the commercial wind generators that supply a portion of the energy Red Lake Electric Cooperative purchases from Minnkota

Power Cooperative range from 90 to 150 times larger than the unit tested in Ohio.

The results of this test done in Ohio are not uncommon from what other small-scale wind interconnect studies have shown. To quote from the Ohio study, the experience was "110 percent successful as an educational experience but disappointing from a practical standpoint." When factoring in the cost of the equipment, the average cost of generation came in at 74 cents per kWh, or about 10 times the average rate RLEC customers pay for on-peak energy.

At this rate, someone who is investing in a residential wind tower to save money or sell energy back to the utility will be disappointed. The conclusion of the Ohio study was that if saving money on your energy bill was your goal, customer dollars would be better spent on energy-efficiency measures to their home.

The commercial wind turbines that generate energy for Minnkota Power are located in prime wind (6916001.06 Daniel Juneau) resource areas of North Dakota. The historical capacity output of these wind generators has ranged from 30 percent to 40 percent. If the wind blew strong enough 24 hours a day, the capacity of a wind generator would be 100 percent. What we know about wind is it doesn't blow constantly and that is why the output of a wind generator is much less than 100 percent of its rated capacity.

Even at this reduced capacity level, commercial wind generators operate more efficiently than their smaller wind turbine counterparts.

The commercial wind turbines have delivered a greater capacity because they are built in prime wind locations and because the towers elevate the generators much higher above ground where wind speeds are greater. The wind towers at the Langdon, N.D., wind farm stand 250 feet from the base to the center of the turbine hub. Small-scale wind generators typically are 75 feet high or less.

Saving money on one's energy bill or selling power back to the interconnected utility may not be the driving force in the decision to purchase a wind generator. The environmental aspect of using a renewable source like wind to generate electricity plays a role and is another reason we see the occasional small-scale wind towers as we travel the countryside.

As a customer of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, you don't have to buy a personal wind tower to feel good about using renewable energy. Minnkota Power Cooperative currently has 108 MW of wind energy, which equals 10 percent of their total generation resources. By the end of this year, Minnkota's wind resources will more than double, totalling just over 240 MW of wind energy. By the end of 2009 or early 2010, Minnkota plans to increase its wind energy capacity to 350 MW, which will account for just over 30 percent of their generation resources.

In 2007, the Minnesota Legislature passed a renewable energy mandate requiring 25 percent of all energy sales in Minnesota by 2025 be from renewable sources. Your electric energy supplier is well on its way to meeting that requirement.

### Energy efficiency tip of the month

Artificial lighting accounts for nearly 15 percent of a household's electricity consumption.

Use of new lighting technologies can reduce lighting



energy use in homes by 50 percent to 75 percent.

Reduce energy use by selecting lighting that uses energy more efficiently and by installing lighting controls.



## Report from the Office

by Shirley Bregier

### Win \$100!

No, it's not the lottery; it's our annual Auto Pay drawing. 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.

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

If the reason you haven't made the change to Auto Pay is because you enjoy sitting down each month and paying your electric bill, I

guess that's your choice. It's nice to know we are in your thoughts at least once a month.

If the reason you haven't made the change is you are not sure what we do with your bank account, I can assure you we keep your account information confidential. We don't have access to your bank account. Each month we give 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 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 bill this month and 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 (5425004.04 Richard Grandbois) enjoying the ease of Auto Pay but your name will be included in the drawing for \$100 Oct. 6.

If Auto Pay doesn't work out for you stop it at any time.

If you have questions about Auto Pay give the office a call at 800-245-6068 or email us at [redlake@minnkota.com](mailto:redlake@minnkota.com).

## From the mailbag

#### DEAR RLEC:

Thank you for the trophy I won at the Marshall County Fair. I really enjoy it.

Thank you,  
**Colton Laymon,  
Warren**

#### DEAR RLEC:

Thank you for sponsoring the Beef and Sheep Rate-of-Gain Awards at the Pennington County Fair.

**Samantha Larson,  
Silverton 4-H Club, Euclid**

#### DEAR RLEC:

Thank you for sponsoring the top dairy production and the champion beef/heifer cash award I won at the Pennington County Fair.

**Hunter Larson,  
Silverton 4-H Club, Euclid**

#### DEAR RLEC:

The Red Lake County Committee on Aging thanks you for your generous gift used Senior Day at the Red Lake County Fair.

**Committee on Aging,  
Red Lake County**

#### DEAR RLEC:

Thank you for selecting me for the scholarship. It will help me next year as I attend North Dakota State University for architecture.

**Taylor Terpstra,  
Crookston**

#### DEAR RLEC:

I would like to thank you for giving me a \$500 scholarship. This will help with my expenses as I attend Mayville State University this fall. I will be majoring in elementary education.

I will also play basketball for the Lady Comets.

It was a privilege to be chosen for this scholarship.

Thank you,  
**Brittney Forsberg,  
Goodridge**

#### DEAR RLEC:

Thank you so much for the scholarship. I will be studying instrumental music education at Concordia College in Moorhead and the scholarship is greatly appreciated. Thanks again.

**Dana Dyrud,  
Thief River Falls**

#### DEAR RLEC:

We of the Lake Pleasant Town Hall and Perrault School rejuvenation workers, give you special thanks.

Getting the bell tower back on the schoolhouse by your very capable crew and equipment was very much appreciated.

We give our thanks to those who were so helpful.

**The Rejuvenation Workers,  
Lake Pleasant Township,  
Red Lake Falls**

## Labor Day closing

Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Monday, Sept. 1.

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

Have a safe Labor Day weekend.

## 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.

## 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*

**RONNIE M. KENNEDY**  
General Manager

## RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc. VOLTS & JOLTS

(USPS 663-400)

Published monthly by the Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., 412 International Drive SW, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750-0430, in the interest of its members and others. Periodical Postage Paid at the U. S. Post Office in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750. POSTMASTER, SEND ADDRESS CHANGES to Volts & Jolts, c/o Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., P. O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750-0430. E-mail: [redlake@minnkota.com](mailto:redlake@minnkota.com)

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Subscription Rate ..... **\$2.50 per year**

AFTER-HOURS

OUTAGE PHONE

218-253-2200



Recipe corner

Chocolate Zucchini Cake

1 3/4 c. sugar  
1/2 c. vegetable oil  
1/4 c. butter, softened  
2 eggs  
1/2 c. buttermilk  
1 tsp. vanilla extract  
2 1/2 c. all-purpose flour  
1/4 c. baking cocoa  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1/2 tsp. baking powder  
1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon  
1/4 tsp. ground cloves  
2 c. finely shredded zucchini  
1/2 c. semisweet chocolate chips  
1/2 c. sliced almonds  
Custard sauce:  
1/2 c. sugar  
2 tbl. all-purpose flour  
2 tbl. cornstarch  
3 c. milk  
3 egg yolks  
3 tbl. butter  
1/4 tsp. almond extract  
In a large mixing bowl, beat sugar, oil and butter. Add eggs, buttermilk and vanilla; mix well. Combine the flour, cocoa, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon and cloves; gradually add to oil mixture. Stir in the zucchini, chocolate chips and almonds. Pour into a greased and floured 10-in. tube or fluted tube pan. Bake at 325° for 55 to 60 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pan to a wire rack.  
For sauce, in a large saucepan, combine the sugar, flour and cornstarch. Stir in milk until smooth. Cook and stir over medium-high heat until thickened and bubbly. Reduce heat; cook and stir 2 minutes longer. Remove from the heat. Stir a small amount of hot filling into egg yolks; return all to pan, stirring constantly. Bring to a gentle boil; cook and stir 2 minutes longer. Remove from the heat. Gently stir in butter and extract. Serve warm sauce with cake; store leftover sauce in the refrigerator. Yield: 12 to 16 servings.

Carrot Cake

2 c. sugar  
1 1/2 c. vegetable oil  
4 eggs  
2 c. sifted cake flour  
2 tsp. soda  
1 tsp. salt  
2 tsp. cinnamon  
3 c. finely ground carrots  
1/2 c. shredded coconut  
3/4 c. pecans  
Frosting:  
4 oz. pkg. cream cheese  
1/2 box confectioners' sugar  
1/2 stick butter  
Mix sugar, oil and eggs. Mix flour, cinnamon, salt and soda. Add to creamed mixture and blend. Add carrots, coconut and nuts and blend. Pour into 13 x 9 1/2 x 2-in. pan that has been greased and floured. Bake 55 minutes at 325°.  
Blend frosting ingredients until smooth.

Old-Fashioned Raisin Spice Cake

2 c. seedless raisins  
4 c. water  
1 scant c. lard  
2 c. sugar  
3 1/2 c. all-purpose flour  
2 tsp. soda  
2 tsp. cinnamon  
2 tsp. nutmeg  
1 1/2 tsp. cloves  
1 tsp. salt  
2 eggs, well beaten  
Nuts, if desired  
Use large pan for cooking raisins and water, then the whole cake can be mixed in it later; only one pan required. Boil raisins and water for 10 minutes, add lard and allow to cool. Sift dry ingredients. Combine flour mixture and eggs to cooled raisin mixture. Nuts may be added, if desired. The ingredients given here will make two average bread tins or two 8-inch square tins.  
Streusel topping:  
1 c. brown sugar  
2 tsp. flour  
2 tsp. cinnamon  
2 tsp. butter or margarine  
1/2 c. nuts, if desired  
Work together like pie crust and sprinkle on top of cakes before baking. Bake at 350°, bread tins for one hour 15 minutes and 8-inch tins for 45 minutes. Test with straw for doneness.

Fresh Fruit Cobbler

5 to 6 c. chopped fresh fruit (apples, rhubarb, blueberry or peaches)\*  
2 c. all-purpose flour  
1/2 c. sugar  
4 tsp. baking powder  
1 tsp. salt  
1/2 c. cold butter or margarine  
1 c. milk  
Topping:  
2/3 c. sugar  
1/4 c. cornstarch  
1 1/2 c. boiling water  
Arrange fruit evenly in the bottom of a 13-in. x 9-in. x 2-in. greased baking pan. In a bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder and salt; cut in butter until crumbly. Stir in milk. Spoon over fruit. Combine sugar and cornstarch; sprinkle over batter. Pour water over all. Bake at 350° for 40 to 45 minutes or until fruit is tender. Yield: 12 to 16 servings.  
\* If desired, a combination of apples and rhubarb or blueberries and peaches can be used.

Apple Cake

1/4 c. butter  
1 c. sugar  
1 egg  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1/2 c. nuts  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1 c. flour  
1 tsp. nutmeg  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
1 tsp. soda  
2 1/2 c. diced apples  
2 tbl. hot water  
Cream butter and sugar, add egg and mix well. Add dry ingredients. Add remaining ingredients. Bake 350° for 45 minutes. Serve with sauce.  
Rum sauce:  
1/2 c. butter  
1/2 c. cream  
1/2 c. white sugar  
Bring to boil, set aside until lukewarm and add 1/2 tsp. rum flavoring. Pour over each piece of apple cake and serve.

An aggressive goal: Minnkota, NMPA, RLEC prepare to meet state legislative challenge

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Northern Municipal Power Agency (NMPA) and the associated electric distribution systems, which includes Red Lake Electric Cooperative, have hired Glacier Consulting to develop an effective set of conservation programs to meet new energy conservation regulations.

As part of the Next Generation Act of 2007, the Minnesota Legislature overhauled the state's Conservation Improvement Program. The new program, named Energy Efficiency and Conservation, became effective July 1, 2007.

Energy conservation and efficiency strategies have always played significant roles for cooperatives and municipalities. However, the new legislation transitions utilities away from a spending requirement program and toward an energy savings program.

The new program, which will be fully implemented by 2010, establishes an annual energy savings goal equivalent to 1.5 percent of gross annual retail energy sales. The savings goal must be calculated based on the most recent three-year weather normalized averaged sales.

Strong vendor support

Glacier Consulting is a full-service program design and implementation firm headquartered in Madison, Wis.

Ed Carroll will be the primary consultant working with the associated electric distribution systems. Carroll has 16 years of experience in the design, implementation and administration of energy and demand reduction programs serving residential, commercial, agricultural and industrial customer groups.

Although Carroll will lead most planning and strategy meetings, several other staff members will do much of the work that takes place behind the scenes.

The team of experts consists of Rick Winch, founder and partner; Tom Talerico, partner; John Steinhoff, subcontractor; Charlie Schneider, subcontractor; and Keith Williams, subcontractor.

Carroll and his partners have a proven track record of providing market research and program evaluation services, earning a national

reputation for integrity and excellence. This stems from their ability to understand the local markets within which energy-efficiency programs operate.

"By partnering with Glacier, you can rely on our team – through market knowledge, innovation and action – to exceed your expectations, deliver dependable results and provide superior service," Carroll told the associated system managers and member service personnel during the vendor selection process in May.

Plan in motion

A conservation/energy efficiency design team was recently formed. The team includes representatives from the Minnesota distribution systems who will provide input and direction to Glacier. Although not a legislative requirement, some of the North Dakota systems are also showing interest by their participation in the process.

Minnkota hosted the first of four design team meetings July 8. Several member service personnel from the Minnkota member-owners and NMPA participating municipalities were in attendance.

One of the initial steps in the design process involves setting the five top goals the associated cooperatives and municipalities are seeking to achieve. Throughout the next six months, retail conservation programs will be designed and refined with input from the design team. Four team meetings and several subcommittee meetings are planned for the remainder of the year.

Carroll has strongly encouraged participation from the Minnkota/NMPA joint system.

"If we are going to develop a set of programs that are going to work for the entire system, we need the entire group's input and expertise," he said.

Minnkota, NMPA and the associated systems plan to stage the rollout of the new programs throughout 2009, in preparation for the 2010 mandate in Minnesota.

"Although it's an aggressive goal, I believe we can achieve it with an effective list of programs that will maximize energy efficiency," Carroll said.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. Operating Report

MONTHLY COMPARISON

	JUNE 2007	JUNE 2008
Total Revenue	\$ 493,782	\$ 560,017
Total Margins	\$ (87,246)	\$ (59,740)
Cost of Power	\$ 357,726	\$ 389,459
KWH's Purchased	7,079,221	7,429,174
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 6,182	\$ 3,116

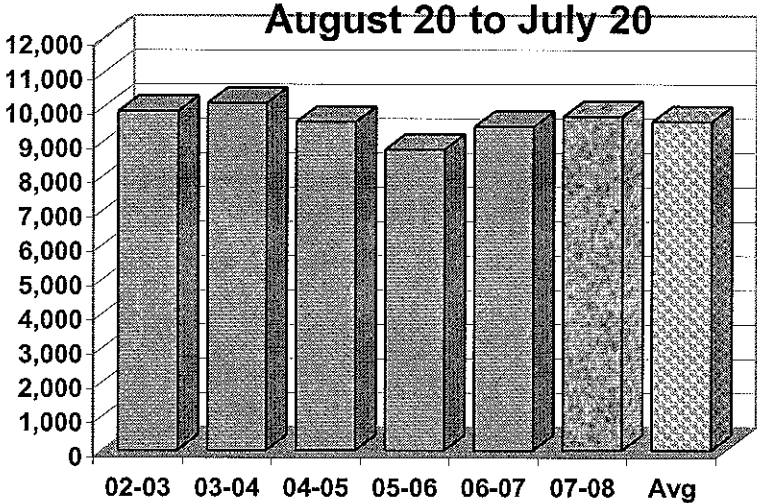
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

	JUNE 2007	JUNE 2008
Total Revenue	\$ 4,208,238	\$ 4,980,515
Total Margins	\$ 741,971	\$ 979,019
Cost of Power	\$ 2,623,303	\$ 3,049,100
KWH's Purchased	69,349,795	78,040,900
New Service Connections	11	19
Customers Served	5,064	5,108
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 58,674	\$ 29,184
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,330	2,323
Underground	230	231

DEGREE DAYS

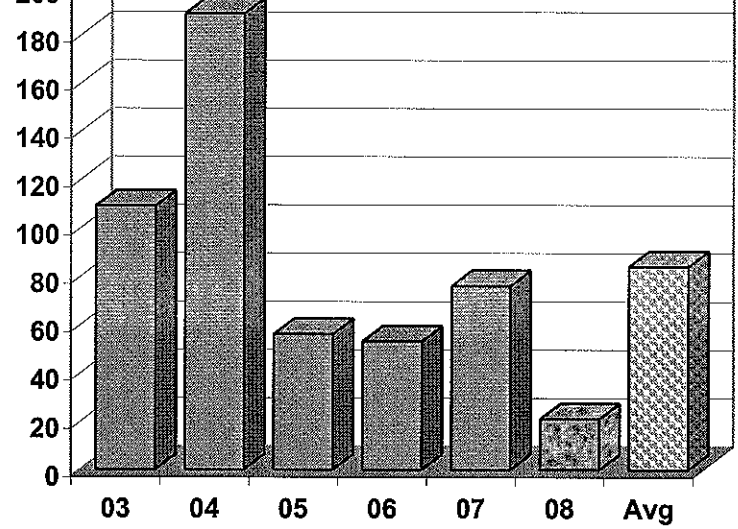
To determine degree days, you must calculate the daily mean temperature for the time period you are measuring. Degree day computation is based on the assumption that a building does not require any heat if the outside temperature averages 65 degrees during a 24-hour period. To obtain a degree day figure, 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



DEGREE DAYS

June 20 to July 20



Jack's Attic

Back to School Shopping Savings. Come in ASAP for Red Tag Sale.

218-796-4510

Do all your back to school shopping @ Jack's Attic consignment store in Oklee on 2nd & Main



702 Dawn Ave.  
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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Historic resettlement farm is home to Gerald and Lorraine Stone

**By Stacy Kleinwachter**

Gerald and Lorraine Stone live 4.5 miles north of Oklee on a resettlement farm that remains nearly unchanged since the day it was acquired in 1941.

Gerald grew up on the farm and graduated from Oklee High School. He met Lorraine at a local dance and they were married in 1948.

Lorraine graduated from Lincoln High School and then attended college in Bemidji and earned a teaching degree. For a little more than 43 years, she worked as a teacher, in Fairbanks, Alaska, California, Illinois and Minnesota, before retiring. Gerald sold tools wholesale for many years.

In their free time, Gerald and Lorraine enjoy traveling and visiting friends. They also like to enjoy their farm by painting the buildings or sitting outside and watching clouds.

The Stones also have another farm in Pennington County but spend the majority of their time on their historic resettlement farm, where they have hosted many parties.

Resettlement farms were designed in Washington, D.C., as a way to encourage people to get back into farming following the Great Depression, since many farmers had lost their farms at that time. The program was directed by President Franklin Roosevelt. It offered farmers low-interest loans for purchasing these farms. Regular loans, even back then, were frequently at 8.5 percent interest.

Exciting news hit the newspapers in the spring of 1937 when it was announced 22 carloads of lumber had arrived in Thief River Falls

The Stone resettlement farm in 1957

to be used for resettlement farms. The buildings on resettlement farms were erected with high-quality lumber, which was hard to come by then.

The Stone family applied to the U.S. government and were accepted to be a part of the resettlement program. They moved onto the farm site in February 1941.

The resettlement farm program gave local people good jobs that taught them the carpentry trade. Lorraine's father was a foreman on various jobs like this, not just for the Stones' farm. He worked on sites farther north and west of Oklee.

Most resettlement buildings were constructed the same. The houses were 22' by 24' with no

bathrooms or running water. These comforts would not be possible without electricity or gasoline-powered gravity systems.

The houses were very well insulated and were designed with one bedroom downstairs and two bedrooms upstairs, each with a closet 17 inches wide. There was not much need for a larger closet like today because people had less clothing back then. "Just throw your boots in a wooden box by the back door and hang your work clothes on nails going down into the basement or on the back door," Gerald explained.

The house was built with a deep, full basement. Removing ground seepage meant bailing the water out through a window. Now the Stones have a sump pump to take care of the water that seeps into the basement.

"As the house heated up, it snapped and groaned as it settled back on the foundation," Gerald said. "Prior to that, you could see outside between the house and the foundation."

Local houses were wired for electricity, which was available in 1948 and 1949 from the Rural Electric Association (REA), which is now known as the Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Farmers bought stock to start their own co-op, thus the REA was formed. Some farmers could not afford electricity until the early 1950s.

Part of the hayloft on the Stones' farm is boarded off for grain storage. The barn was built with two horse stalls. "We had only one team, so the other was cemented in later," Lorraine stated. This stall was not used for the horses. "Horse stalls were not cemented because it is hard on the horse's feet all day," Lorraine said.

The barn's roof had to be replaced in the mid-1990s after a tornado took off some of the shingles and caused other damage.

The chicken coop is 20' by 25' and has a small door with a ramp so the chickens can run in and out. When the Stones bought day-old chicks, they would sometimes keep them upstairs in their house. They didn't care about modesty or vanity since this was their livelihood.

The toilet, or outhouse, is 5' 3" by 4' 9" and is a two-seater. The Stones are very proud of their toilet.

The well house is 9' 3" by 7' 3". It is large enough to store shovels, rakes and hoes.

Many resettlement farms were

close to the main road, as is the Stones' farm. All five original buildings on their farm are kept as they were, except at the north door of the house where a sun room and a garage have been added. The house also has a remodeled interior. They have also added a steel storage building, which was built about four years ago.

"Times were not always easy on this 160-acre farm," Gerald said. Every spring, his father Lawrence mortgaged everything in order to purchase seed. All the horse-drawn machinery and each animal were listed on the mortgage. Birdie the cow was always first on the list. When her calf was too young to have a name, it was described by

where its spots were located.

Lawrence and his neighbor, Soren Kolstoe, shared machinery in later years. This helped them both financially.

In 1963, after Gerald's sister Patti died in Italy, money from her life insurance helped pay off the balance for the farm.

"Years ago most farming was diversified and now much of the pasture is lawn," Gerald said. Soybeans and wheat are the main crops the Stones now grow.

"We are amazed at the changes in farming in the last 60 years but will never forget the sacrifices (Gerald's) parents made to pay \$50 for his graduation suit," Lorraine said.

The Stones' barn

Gerald and Lorraine Stone

The view from the driveway in 2008

On the Stones' farm, buildings are, from left, the chicken coop, the toilet and the granary. All of the original buildings are painted a vibrant red.

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# Finding ways to store electricity for later use

By Scott Gates, NRECA technology/energy efficiency writer

As new portable electronics become more powerful, the inadequacy of supporting battery technology becomes increasingly more noticeable. High-tech laptops, cameras and MP3 players, even hybrid and electric cars, are limited with today's relatively weak batteries.

The problem only grows on the utility scale and has perplexed the electric industry for decades. But the potential payoffs of better batteries in an energy-constrained world has renewed research and development efforts.

Advancements in battery technology could bolster power generation in two big ways: stored electricity could be tapped during periods of peak consumption when power plants are running at full capacity; and renewable energy systems, like solar and wind, could become a reliable resource even on cloudy days or when the wind stopped blowing.

In working toward the goal of developing a better battery, the Cooperative Research Network (CRN), an arm of Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative (NRECA), has launched an effort to find the best types for electric co-op use.

"Our consultants are currently looking at all the batteries out there, seeing what's best for 'asset deferral' – delaying the need to build new poles, wires and substations by better using what's already in place – and for use with renewables," said Bob Gibson, senior program manager with CRN. "In the next stage, we're planning to test some



Golden Valley Electric Association, based in Fairbanks, Alaska, uses the world's most powerful nickel-cadmium battery to hedge against power outages. When needed, the 13,760-battery cell system can provide 27 megawatts of power for 15 minutes. Source: Patrick Endres/Alaskaphotographics.com

of the most promising new batteries at co-op sites."

Large-scale energy storage technology ranges from glorified lead acid batteries (what's in your car) to more advanced nickel-cadmium batteries (what's in a cordless drill) to newer flow and sodium-sulfur batteries. The latter two, though only in very limited use in the field, are relatively compact, long-lasting and efficient, and show the most promise for storing massive amounts of power for later use.

Other large-scale options are more mechanical than chemical in nature. One involves pumping

water uphill when electricity use is low, such as at night, and releasing it through turbines to produce electricity when more kilowatts are needed. Another uses excess electricity to compress air, which is then stored in vast underground caverns until it's called on to blast natural gas-fired turbines into action.

"Pumped storage and compressed air work well but are only feasible near special geographic features. Batteries, on the other hand, can be put anywhere," Gibson said. "Although none of the advanced technologies are completely proven, energy storage could solve so many problems. The potential is enormous."

– Sources: NRECA, the Cooperative Research Network

## Make electrical safety a top priority this harvest season

The rush to harvest can reap grim results if steps to ensure safety are bypassed. Power lines must be thoughtfully avoided and taking that extra step can ensure you continue to have a safe and productive harvest.

Many farm electrical accidents that involve power line contact happen when loading or preparing to transport equipment to field or while performing maintenance or repairs on farm machinery near power lines. It can be difficult to estimate distance and sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. A spotter or someone with a broader view can help.

Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger, modern tractors. Also many tractors are equipped with radios and communication systems and have antennas extending from the cab to 15 feet above the ground that could make contact with power lines.

Overhead power lines aren't the only risk during this season. Pole guy wires are a supporting part of the pole or structure. If one is broken it can cause an electric current

disruption and electric hazard or even cause the pole to break. If you hit a guy wire and break it call Red Lake Electric Cooperative immediately. Do not fix it yourself.

If you question the height of power lines near your work areas, don't attempt to measure the line heights yourself. Contact Red Lake

Electric Cooperative to help determine line heights in each area of the farm.

The best way to handle a farm-related accident is prevention. Respect electricity and avoid contact with overhead lines. Look up and be safe this harvest season.

## Top dairy herds for July DHIA

Randy and Margaret Rasmussen, supervisors of the Red Lake-Pennington

DHIA, put the following herds at top 10 in the association for July.

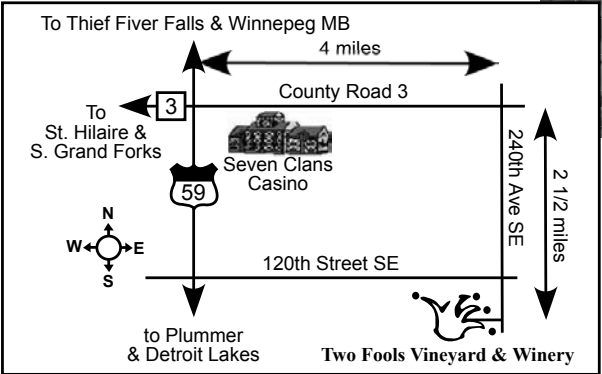
Name	Cows	% in milk	lbs. milk	test	lbs. fat	protein	lbs. protein
Walter Bros. Farm	300	91	77	3.1	2.4	2.9	2.2
NW Research & Outreach	113	89	74	3.4	2.5	3.0	2.2
Beyer Bros. Farm	75	89	68	3.3	2.2	2.9	2.0
Wayra Dairy, 3X	221	88	67	3.5	2.4	2.9	2.0
Spring Prairie Colony	346	88	62	3.6	2.2	3.0	1.9
Northstar Dairy, 3X	838	92	61	3.6	2.2	3.1	1.9
Schafer Farm	68	96	60	3.4	2.0	3.1	1.9
Robert and Terri Dahlen	56	86	60	3.4	2.1	3.0	1.8
Amundson Dairy	68	87	58	3.7	2.1	3.0	1.7
Christianson Farms	53	92	57	3.5	2.0	3.0	1.7
Tom and Diane Kolstoe	36	89	57	3.5	2.0	3.0	1.7

The herd averages are affected by the number of dry cows in the herd. The amount of milk or butterfat is averaged out over all the cows. This gives the farmer a record of the earning power of the herd for the month. If too many cows are included in the herd, then the average for the month may be low, even though the cow that is milking produces a lot of milk.

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# New pipeline is cause for relocating power poles and lines

Enbridge Energy Partners is having a new oil pipeline built from Edmonton, Alberta, to Clearbrook. Placement of the pipeline from a northwest to a south-east direction through Red Lake Electric Cooperative's service territory is requiring some power poles and

lines to be relocated. Some poles also need to be replaced with longer poles to provide greater clearance for the pipeline construction equipment.



A Red Lake Electric line construction crew works to redo the service in the yard of Gary and Barb Nelson northwest of St. Hilaire. The route for the new oil pipeline has required some power poles to be relocated and/or replaced.



Brett Knott, apprentice lineman, guides the transformer onto the mounting bolts of the transformer pole at the Nelson residence northwest of St. Hilaire. The transformer is raised with the winch of the digger truck.



Once the electric service into the Nelson yard has been redone, the tap is connected to energize the service. Ira Cota, lineman, uses an insulated fiberglass stick to connect the hotline tap. The relocation of this take-off pole along County Road 15 northwest of St. Hilaire was cause for the Nelson service to be redone.



Dick Gervais, front left, uses a handline to raise the primary wires for the new transformer pole in the yard of Gary and Barb Nelson.

## Western Minn. Steam Thresher's Reunion

The Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion (WMSTR) will hold its 55th annual show Labor Day weekend. The event runs from Friday, Aug. 29, through Monday, Sept. 1. Gates open at 6 a.m. Daily and season tickets are available. There is also camping available on the grounds for all four days. WMSTR is located in Rollag. The show grounds are 2 miles east of Hawley on Highway 10, and then 10 miles south on Highway 32. Featured at this year's show will be John Deere equipment. Along with the John Deere Expo, the show holds many different areas of interest. Daily parades will give a close-up view of the hundreds of antique tractors, steam engines and construction equipment. The 220 acres also holds many display and demonstration areas, including threshing, plowing, steam shovels, tractor pulls, saw mills and horse-powered farming. Check out the print shop and the blacksmith's area. Children of all ages will enjoy rides on the antique merry-go-round, horse-drawn wagons, the miniature train and the full-size steam locomotives. Visit the one-room school house and the prairie church. During the evening hours, there will be old-time music. There is also the Rollag version of fireworks with a "Spark Show," courtesy of the steam engines. There are many areas dedicated to the skills and crafts of the pioneer women. Spinning, sewing, wool dying, rug making and many other crafts. There will be many concessions stands offering a full-size thresherman's breakfast or dinner. For the not so big appetites there are also many snack meals available. Popcorn stands, caramel apples and fry bread are all local favorites.



Above: Safety is a big concern for pipeline construction workers. Every overhead power line crossing is marked for the construction workers. White plastic poles with a rope and orange flag are set on each side of every overhead crossing. The piles of timbers in the picture are used for bridging material at every ditch crossing. Inset: Also at each overhead powerline crossing, pipeline construction workers are reminded of the overhead lines by a warning sign.



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<b>2004 Chevy Trailblazer LT</b> T8215A New Tires, Htd. Leather, 100k .....	<b>\$10,499/\$231*</b>	<b>2008 Mercury Grand Marquis</b> B0638 Loaded, Leather, 17k Miles .....	<b>\$16,999/\$268*</b>

\* Price Per Month 10% Down Plus Tax & License 7.99% APR/O.A.C.

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# ASHLEE HEWITT

**NASHVILLE STAR**  
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## LIVE IN CONCERT

**Sunday, August 24, 7 - 9 p.m.**  
**Second Street, Red Lake Falls**  
**(Between Thompson Hardware & Unity Bank)**

**VIP Tickets Sold in Advance \$10**

**General Admission Tickets**  
**Sold at the Gate \$5 - Bring a Chair**

**WITH SPECIAL GUEST JUSTIN GASTON**

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Sponsored by the Red Lake Falls Merchant's Committee







# \$100 DRAWING

## OCTOBER 6, 2008

### FOR ALL MEMBERS USING AUTO-PAY FOR PAYING THEIR MONTHLY ELECTRIC BILL.

“Auto-pay” is the easiest, most efficient way to make and process electric bill payments, and we want to show our appreciation to those using it.

If you are using “auto-pay,” on October 6 you are automatically entered in the drawing.

If you are not currently using “auto-pay,” sign up before October 6.

# The role of coal: baseload generation crucial to future energy supply

In 2007, Minnkota Power Cooperative made a major commitment to wind energy by signing a long-term contract to purchase a significant amount of wind energy from the recently completed Langdon Wind Energy Center.

While renewable energy sources such as wind are increasing, coal remains the backbone of energy generation for Minnkota, the region and the nation.

David Loer, Minnkota president and CEO, said he expects the cooperative's coal-fired plants in North Dakota to exist far into the future.

"Coal is the most abundant and economical generation resource," he explained. "Wind has its place but it is limited by inconsistent wind speeds. Coal doesn't suffer such limitations but is instead abundant, inexpensive and reliable."

**Supply is abundant**

Coal is a proven generation source that has abundant resources, demonstrated by multiple statistics:

- One-half of the nation's electricity is provided by coal, with even higher percentages in the Upper Midwest. Coal provides 90 percent of the electricity in North Dakota and 66 percent in Minnesota.
- Nationally, coal has enough proven reserves to last 250 years at the current rate of usage. North Dakota alone has 25 billion tons of economically recoverable reserves, enough to serve the state's power plants for 800 years at current consumption levels, according to the North Dakota Geological Survey.
- Thirty million tons of lignite is produced annually at the state's four surface mines. About 80 percent is turned into electricity and 20 percent is used by the Great Plains Synfuels plant.

**Price is right**

Coal-generated power is affordable partly because North Dakota's coal remains in the state and the plants are built adjacent to mines. Having the BNI Coal mine next to the Milton R. Young Station near Center, N.D., is a prime example of the low transportation costs with a mine-mouth facility.

The Young plant's production cost of generating one megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity in 2007 was \$22.24. That beats the national average cost of \$23.68 for generating one MWh with coal.

Coal is much more economical than the average generation cost for natural gas, which is at \$67.20 per MWh.

"So when we talk about affordable, it is; we really mean it," said Steve Van Dyke, director of communications for the Lignite Energy Council. "A megawatt-hour is enough electricity to serve 800 homes for one hour. That's a lot of electricity."

While the cost of gasoline and natural gas has soared, electricity prices from coal have remained relatively stable. Residents of North Dakota and Minnesota enjoy electricity rates that are roughly half of what residents in California and New York pay.

Being the lowest-cost producer of electricity, coal-based energy provides consumer cost savings. Those savings increase the disposable incomes of working families for housing, food, education, health care and transportation – all vital ingredients for a better quality of life.

**Count on coal**

Reliability may be coal's best quality.

"Coal-based generation is available 24/7," Van Dyke said. "There is no fluctuation on the transmission grid with thermal generation from coal."

Technology allows batteries to be built only so big. Solar power is good when the sun is shining. Wind energy is good when the wind blows.

"Coal-generated electricity is generated at the same time it is used," Van Dyke said.

Coal-based electricity also adds to the nation's energy security. While the Middle East remains a volatile source of oil and a disruption could potentially cripple the U.S. economy, coal is a domestic resource.

**Economic engine, too**

The lignite industry is also a high-powered economic engine.

North Dakota's four mines and seven power plants provide more than 4,000 direct jobs, with an average annual salary of \$70,000. That compares with the state's average of \$30,000.

Along with agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and oil/natural gas, lignite is one of the state's top five industries. The industry is also a taxpayer in the state, providing more than \$160 million during each biennium while lowering others' tax responsibility.

Nationally, coal is a strong economic engine, too. According to a Penn State study, coal will add more than \$1 trillion to the U.S. economy in 2015, along with 4.6 million to nine million jobs.

**Investments continue**

In addition to its benefits to the overall economy, the coal industry is investing in itself. North Dakota and the electric industry are formal partners in a lignite research and development program. The goal is to expand lignite's economic benefits through projects that allow the fuel to be used more cleanly, efficiently and economically.

The state's research and development money is raised from severance taxes on coal mined in the state and from a percentage of the coal conversion taxes. For each state dollar invested in research and development, another \$6 comes from other states.

A current example is research being done to capture mercury emitted from lignite-based power plants. The state's \$2.8 million was leveraged with money from other sources for a total of \$27 million for mercury research. The research led to a decrease in costs of capturing mercury in the last three years from \$70,000 a pound to less than \$10,000 a pound.

Utilities also are doing their part

to address concerns about air emissions. In North Dakota, they have invested more than \$800 million in emissions control technology and will invest another \$800 million in the next few years to meet new regulations.

Although the use of coal to generate electricity nearly tripled between 1970 and 2000, the coal-based electricity sector reduced emissions of targeted air emissions by one-third.

"It's important to remember North Dakota and Minnesota are two of only 12 states in the nation that meet all ambient air quality standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency," Van Dyke said. "It's clear that coal will be used to power the nation's growing energy needs long into the future."

## 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 SIGN-UP SHEET

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

RLEC ELECTRIC ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION \_\_\_\_\_

CHECKING ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_

SAVINGS ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_

SIGN HERE TO AUTHORIZE \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this authorization form with a blank, voided check to:  
Red Lake Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750

### KICK'N UP Music Festival

## August 29-31

# Pennington County Fair Grounds

Thief River Falls, MN

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 29TH

5:00 P.M.	Little Kicker Contest Winners
7:00 P.M.	Mustang Sally
8:45 P.M.	Ashlee Hewitt
10:00 P.M.	Jeff Bates

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 30TH

1:30 P.M.	Jay Taylor Band from Nashville
2:45 P.M.	Wayne Renn Band
4:15 P.M.	Sarah Johns
6:00 P.M.	Bucky Covington
7:45 P.M.	Lorrie Morgan
9:30 P.M.	Joe Nichols

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 31ST

10 A.M.	Trinity Trio (Band Shell)
11 A.M.	Overtones (Band Shell)
1:30 P.M.	Eagle Creek
2:45 P.M.	Indian Country
4:15 P.M.	Gwen Sebastian
6:00 P.M.	Jason Jones
7:45 P.M.	Ronnie Milsap
9:30 P.M.	Neal McCoy

#### Ticket Information

1-877-542-5687  
www.kicknupkountry.com

## Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

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