



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. 01

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

NOVEMBER 2008

The heating season is here

Additional generation to benefit off-peak customers

Although a number of variables affect off-peak control hours, increased electric demand on the Minnkota Power Cooperative generation and transmission system during the 2008-2009 heating season will be offset by the addition of new generating resources.

That's good news for the more than 50,000 off-peak customers in the Minnkota/Northern Municipal Power Agency (NMPA) Joint System who receive electric service from an associated cooperative or municipal in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.

Dual heat is a simple concept. Participants in the load management program receive (5305017.02 Steve Sorvig) substantially reduced electric rates for their primary electric heating source. In exchange, they maintain an automatic and reliable backup heating system capable of carrying them through control times.

These dual heating systems allow Minnkota to interrupt the flow of electricity during peak demand times to better manage energy supply and demand. Load management activities are initiated from the Control Center in Grand Forks, N.D.

More Resources

The additional generation within the Minnkota system will come from:

- Purchasing energy from another 40.5 megawatts (MW) of capacity from the Langdon Wind Energy Center south of Langdon, N.D.;
- Purchasing energy produced by the new 99-MW Ashtabula Wind Energy Center north of Valley City, N.D., when it is commissioned later this year; and
- Exercising the last of four incremental options to increase Minnkota's allocation (by another 5 percent) of the power produced by Young 2 beginning Jan. 1, 2009.



That final increment will add another 22 MW of capacity, bringing Minnkota's share to 50 percent of Young 2 generation.

Positive Offset

"These additional resources should also reduce the number of hours of load control," said Todd Sailer, Minnkota energy supply manager. "We are actually at a point where the expanded resources

should be a positive offset to the amount of load management that may be needed."

While Sailer isn't projecting an actual number of load control hours this winter season, he is predicting that the number of hours should be less than last year. This is in spite of an anticipated 2.5 percent increase in total system load.

The decision to control off-peak loads is an economic one. The cost of wholesale power on the open market is the primary driver. The price of natural gas, which fuels many (2818003.02 Michael Srnsky) of the region's peaking plants, has a huge bearing on the cost of wholesale power. An escalated price of natural gas translates into higher wholesale electricity costs.

"The decision on whether to purchase energy from the market or to control off-peak loads is based on the current market price, along with season-to-date energy purchases and control hours," said Al Tscheppen, vice president of Planning and System Operations.

Entire System Benefits

The load management program benefits all customers in the Minnkota/NMPA Joint System. By controlling demand for a short time during high-use periods, affordable rates for all customers are maintained and the construction of new base load generation just to cover the peak load periods is avoided.

Sailer noted that using a blend of primary off-peak electric heat with backup provided by propane, natural gas or fuel oil is significantly less expensive than heating with fossil fuels alone.

"Off-peak electric heating," he explained, "is definitely the most economical heating choice. And with a good backup heating system properly installed and maintained, off-peak customers shouldn't notice any difference in comfort level when the load control system is called on to operate."



Thanksgiving A Time for Giving Thanks

As we gather with our families and friends for Thanksgiving, it is fitting we reflect on the many blessings for which we can be thankful. We all experience misfortunes but they are few compared with the blessings bestowed on us.

May you have an enjoyable Thanksgiving!

Let's keep a good thing going

Red Lake Electric urges customers not to plug in electric space heaters during load control times

As customers of Red Lake Electric Cooperative know, the load management program is a good thing to have around. The program helps keep electric rates among the lowest in the country.

The program could lose much of its value, however, if electric space heaters, including those being advertised regionally, were to be substituted on a large-scale basis for the backup heating systems that are used during high demand times.

Based on Honor System

In the load management program, Red Lake Electric customers maintain adequate and reliable dual heating systems. This, in turn, qualifies them for off-peak rates that are nearly 50 percent less than regular retail rates. These systems include electric floor heat, electric furnaces and other loads that can be interrupted during peak-use times.

When the backup systems are in operation, electric load on the regional power system is reduced. This, in turn, allows our power supplier, Minnkota Power Cooperative, to avoid buying higher cost supplemental power from the wholesale market.

While there are requirements that have to be met to qualify for participation in the off-peak program, there is a certain amount of honor involved, too. Customers need to allow their backup systems to take over, rather than plugging in one or more electric space heaters.

"If customers of the associated distribution systems violate the spirit of the program, there will be consequences," explained Al Tscheppen, Minnkota vice president of Planning and Systems Operations. "Those consequences would include higher rates for all customers and extended control times for those customers who are playing by the rules of the load management program."

Major Concerns

Recently, ads have been appearing in regional newspapers and on the radio, promoting certain types



of electric space heaters. Red Lake Electric Cooperative is concerned that customers might be paying more money for products that aren't going to result in the savings they anticipated.

"No matter how they promote it, a 1,500-watt heater is a 1,500-watt heater," explained Kevin Reich, member services manager at Red Lake Electric Cooperative. "You can get one of these space heaters at the local hardware store for less than \$50. If someone is buying one of these because of the advertising, they could be spending a lot more money, up to \$400 and even \$500, for something that might have a fancy cover on it, but in the end, all they are really getting is a 1,500-watt heater."

Customers who plug in space heaters during periods of load control create another concern. The benefits of the load management program are greatly diminished when this occurs. "Electric space heaters create additional demand during times when Red Lake Electric is trying to demonstrate our ability to control heating loads, which reduces our wholesale power costs from Minnkota," said Reich.

Safety is also a huge concern with portable space heaters. Using a number of these heaters inside a home can overload circuits that were not wired for that kind of load. The Consumer Products Safety Commission reports that each year

about 28,000 house fires are attributed to space heaters, resulting in 300 related deaths. Space heaters are not inherently dangerous, but they need to be used wisely.

Dual Heating Systems - A Better Solution

"It's not hard to understand why someone who is paying \$3 a gallon for fuel oil would think it is a great option to plug in a heater," said Reich. "But what they may not understand is that over time it will increase their overall costs."

If a number of off-peak customers began using one, two or even three space heaters, this would directly affect their cooperative. This could result in a rate increase for all customers, or even worse, the program could be eliminated all together.

"Instead of the possibility of paying the full rate for electricity for space heaters, customers should consider adding to their off-peak systems," Reich said. "These systems allow Red Lake Electric Cooperative to control heating loads during times when supplemental power from the open market is most expensive."

By either expanding a dual heating system or developing a new (5814001.02 Virgil Benoit) one, customers will receive the most economical rate available for their electricity and the integrity of the load management system will be maintained long into the future.

A blend of primary off-peak electric heat with a fuel oil, propane or natural gas backup heating system is significantly less expensive than heating with fossil fuels alone.

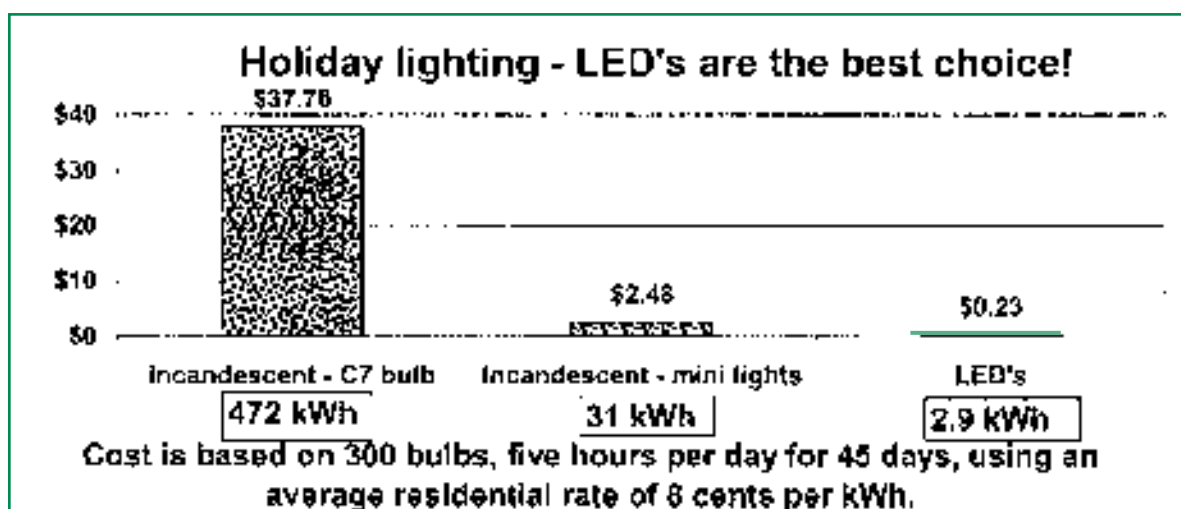
"Off-peak electric heating continues to be the most economical heating choice this winter season," Reich said.

Information about developing a dual heat system is available by contacting the member services department at Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Call 1-800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168 for more details.

QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Consider buying light emitting diode (LED) Christmas lights this year. They are superior to standard bulbs for holiday lighting. LED's use 10 times less energy than mini-lights and 100 times less energy than C-7 bulbs. LED's have an ultra long life - up to 100,000 hours. LED bulbs are good for all weather, unbreakable and water resistant-good for indoors and outdoors. If one LED burns out, the others stay lit. LED's are safe; cool to the touch and fire resistant. Many LED lights can be connected end-to-end without overloading a typical circuit. Although LED lights may cost more than standard lights, they quickly make up the difference in energy savings as indicated by the chart below.





Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



Plug-in electrical space heaters

I encourage you, if you haven't done so already, to read the article "Let's keep a good thing going," printed on page one of this month's *Volts & Jolts*. This story on plug-in electric space heaters does a good job of explaining why Red Lake Electric Cooperative and other Cooperatives of the Minnkota Power Systems do not support the use of portable electric heaters.

What we do support is that our off-peak heating customers keep their back-up source of heat, usually a fuel oil or propane furnace, in good working order to cover their heating needs during the winters load control periods. A customer using a portable electric heater(s) in place of their backup fuel oil or propane furnace cancels the savings RLEC would normally realize from lowering or shedding that customers electric heat load. When that happens, our costs to serve you go up. When our costs go up, those costs get passed on to all customers in the form of higher retail rates.

Judging by the phone calls and

visits we have with customers, there are many of you who have seen or heard the ads promoting the use of these electric space heaters. I admit these ads are appealing and well written. Who wouldn't, as the ads proclaim, want to save 50 percent on home heating costs? That is an attention getter. The fine print here is that to save that much on your energy cost, you need to lower the heat in other parts of your home and only heat the room you want to keep warm. In many cases however, people (7019002.04 Randy D. Proulx) maintain the same thermostat temperature in the house and plug in the electric space heaters besides. We know, we have heard from these folks shortly after their monthly electric bill arrives, wondering why their bill has gone up instead of down. The bottom line is, there is no magic plug-in space heaters that will reduce your energy usage. To save money by using a space heater, you need to sacrifice comfort in the rest of your home and heat only the room you occupy.

I encourage doing the math before you invest in an expensive space heater. We are grateful to those customers who have questioned the fine print of these portable space heating ads and have called RLEC to learn "the rest of the story." Many of our customers have come to know that in order for RLEC to have an off-peak heating program, where customers can save money on their heating bills, plug in space heaters can not be part of the heating equation. It just doesn't work.

If you want to save money on your monthly energy bill, we are convinced you would be money ahead to use the \$300-\$400 some are charging for these plug in heaters and invest it in weatherization improvements to your home. We invite you to call us if you have more questions about these space heaters or questions you have about home heating. We're happy to help you any way we can.

From the mailbag

DEAR RLEC:

Thank you for donating to the Kris Fontaine Memorial Golf Tournament. The tournament was a success and with your donation we continue to increase the Kris Fontaine Memorial Scholarship Fund. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

The Fontaine Families Mentor

DEAR RLEC:

Thank you from the Red Lake County Central SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) students and TRI A (Alcohol and Ash Annihilators) students for your support of Red Ribbon Week, October 2008. Your donation was greatly appreciated.

Red Lake County Central Students

DEAR RLEC:

Your generous thoughts and donations from Operation Round-Up are greatly appreciated. This will help our communications. Thank you.

**Cathy Desrosier
Polk County Mounted Posse**

DEAR RLEC:

Thank you for the \$100 credit we received for the auto pay drawing.

**Mark and Lana Bruggeman
Thief River Falls**

DEAR RLEC:

Thank you for the \$300 grant you gave the Strandquist Food Shelf. This money will help feed many people. Thanks.

**Gula Stromgren
Strandquist**

DEAR RLEC:

The Red Lake Falls Volunteer Fire Department was happy to receive a grant from Operation Round-Up. The money we received will be used to purchase new pager equipment needed to replace the current pagers. The replacement is needed due to the new radio systems coming out. This is a great program you are offering and it is very much appreciated by all of us. Thanks again.

**Red Lake Falls
Volunteer Fire Department**

DEAR RLEC:

On behalf of the Thief River Falls and Pennington County Safety Camp Committee, I would to thank RLEC and the Board of Directors for the continued financial support that you give to our Safety Camp through your Operation Round-Up program.

Your generosity will continue to be used towards safety education for 120 second and third graders in June 2009. With financial support from organizations such as yours, it will be possible to once again conduct this camp to teach children the importance of safety that could one day save their lives.

**Madelyn Vigen
Director of Parks and Recreation
Thief River Falls**



Report from the Office

by Shirley Bregier

Identity theft protection

Identity theft is on the rise and fast becoming the number one crime in America. Starting Nov. 1, 2008, Red Lake Electric has new policies and a "Red Flag" program (1223004.02 David J. Thompson) in place to make it more difficult for someone to steal your identity. The more I learn about identity theft, the more concerned I get. It's pretty amazing how easy it has been to steal someone's identity.

To be in compliance with the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 (FACT Act) Red Lake Electric has developed a program to identify, detect and respond to patterns, practices and specific forms of activity that could indicate identity theft. As a part of this program, Red Lake Electric will be asking you some identifying questions when you call the office for setting up a new service, to have changes made to your account or to

request certain information. When you visit our office to request this information you will be asked for photo identification. We may, in some instances, call you back to verify that it was you that made the request. Also, any identifying numbers such as social security numbers, driver's license number or bank information is encrypted so it is protected.

This may seem like an annoyance, and it may be, but we hope that by taking some extra care in being sure we are talking to the person who's name is on the account and knowing who you are that your identity will be safe with us. Rest assured we would never ask you for identifying information by e-mail.

Another thought I had today is that now that the heating season is getting in full swing we get more concerned with the automated meter reading devices on off-peak

systems that are not sending us a reading. If you are using electric heat that is on an off-peak system, we ask that you check over your electric bill and make sure that your meter readings on the bill are in line with the reading on your meter. Sometimes after the summer break some of the automated meter reading endpoints don't want to start back to work. If you notice a difference, please call the RLEC office and we will check it out.

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I think we all start thinking more conscientiously about things we are thankful for. When we stop long enough we realize we each have many things to be thankful for. May each of you have a very enjoyable Thanksgiving and I hope your list of blessings continues to grow.

Decorate safely for the holidays

By Chris Grammes

Colorful, twinkling lights. Brightly lit plastic candy canes and snowmen on the front lawn.

Such decorations help make the holidays a magical time of year, but they must be handled with care. Each year, fires occurring during the holiday season injure 2,600 individuals and cause more than \$930 million in damage, according to the U.S. Fire Administration, largely due to the misuse of electrical products and decorations.

Here are some tips for using electrical products safely during the holidays:

- Before decorating, read and follow the manufacturers' instructions concerning installation and maintenance of all decorative electrical products.
- Indoors and out, use lights and other electrical decorations certified by a recognized, independent testing firms such as Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL).
- Use lights certified for outdoor use only for outdoor use. The same goes for indoor lights.
- Carefully inspect each light



before plugging it into a socket. Cracked, frayed, loose or bare wires may cause a serious electric shock or start a fire.

- Do not mount or support light strings in any way that might damage the cord's insulation. Never nail or staple light strings or extension cords.
- Always unplug an electrical decoration before replacing light bulbs or fuses.
- Do not connect more than three light string sets together. Light strings with screw-in bulbs should have no more than 50 bulbs connected together.



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 \$15 to \$21 month
First 500 KWH 8.0¢ Kwh
Over 500 KWH (April-Dec.) 5.7¢ Kwh
Over 500 KWH (Jan.-Mar.) 6.5¢ Kwh
Multiphase users add \$16/month cost of service charge.

Standby, \$8/month (meter disconnected but the power line retained; standby is not available on services larger than 15 KVA transformer capacity).

Security light, \$6/month, high pressure sodium, \$7/month, mercury vapor; water heater flat credit, \$5/month (on January-April billing); off-peak equipment charge, \$3.50/month per heat meter; off-peak electric heat rate, 3.5¢/kWh long-term control, 5.0¢/kWh short-term control.

Mission Statement

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



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

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

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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

Icebox Sugar Cookies

1 c. butter (no substitutes), softened
2 c. sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla extract
3-1/2 c. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt

In a mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Combine flour, baking soda and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture. On a lightly floured surface, shape dough into three 10-in. long rolls. Tightly wrap each roll in waxed paper. Chill for 1 hour or until firm. Cut into 3/8-in. slices; place on greased baking sheets. Sprinkle with sugar. Bake at 375 degrees for 8-10 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool on wire racks. Yield: about 8 dozen.

Herb-Rubbed Turkey

2 tbsp. rubbed sage
1 tbsp. salt
2 to 3 tsp. pepper
2 tsp. curry powder
2 tsp. garlic powder
2 tsp. celery seed
2 tsp. dried parsley flakes
1 tsp. paprika
1/2 tsp. ground mustard
1/4 tsp. ground allspice
3 bay leaves, crumbled
1 turkey (14 to 16 pounds)

In a small bowl, combine all of the seasonings; mix well. Rub half the seasoning mixture in the cavity of the turkey. Rub remaining mixture over the turkey skin. Tie the drumsticks together and place turkey in a roasting pan. Roast using your favorite cooking method until a meat thermometer reads 185 degrees. Yield: 12-14 servings.

Turkey Tetrazzini

6 tbsp. butter
6 tbsp. all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper
3 c. chicken broth
1 c. whipping cream
1 package (1 pound) linguine, cooked and drained
4 c. cubed cooked turkey
1 c. sliced fresh mushrooms
1 jar (4 ounces) diced pimientos, drained
1/4 c. chopped fresh parsley
4 to 5 drops hot pepper sauce
1/3 c. grated Parmesan cheese

In a saucepan over medium heat, melt the butter. Add the flour, salt, pepper and cayenne; stir until smooth. Gradually add broth; bring to a boil. Cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from the heat; stir in cream. Mix 2 cups of sauce with linguine; pour into a greased 13-in. by 9-in. by 2-in. baking dish. Make a well in center of noodles, leaving about a 6-in. by 4-in. space. To the remaining sauce, add turkey, mushrooms, pimientos, parsley and hot pepper sauce; mix well. Pour into the center of dish. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake 20-30 minutes more or until bubbly and heated through. Yield: 8-10 servings.

Squash Puffs

1 c. mashed cooked acorn squash
1 egg
1/4 c. diced onion
1/2 c. self-rising flour*
1/2 c. self-rising cornmeal*
1 tsp. sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
Cooking oil

In a bowl, combine squash, egg and onion. Combine flour, cornmeal, sugar and salt; add to squash mixture and mix well. In an electric skillet, heat 1/4 in. of oil to 365 degrees. Drop batter by tablespoonfuls into oil. Fry, a few at a time, for 2-3 minutes or until crisp and golden, turning often. Drain on paper towels. Yield: 4-6 servings. *Editor's note: As a substitute for self-rising flour, place 3/4 tsp. baking powder and 1/4 tsp. salt in a 1/2-c. measuring cup. Add all-purpose flour to measure 1/2 cup. There is no substitute for self-rising cornmeal.

Spaghetti Fruit Salad

1 c. confectioners' sugar
2 eggs
1/2 c. lemon juice
1/2 tsp. salt
8 ounces spaghetti, broken into 2-inch pieces
1 can (20 ounces) pineapple tidbits
3 medium tart apples, diced
1 carton (8 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed
1/4 c. chopped walnuts
Maraschino cherries, halved

In a saucepan, combine sugar, eggs, lemon juice and salt; cook and stir over medium heat until temperature reaches 160 degrees and mixture is thickened, about 4 minutes. Cool completely. Cook spaghetti according to the package directions; drain and rinse in cold water. Place in a large bowl. Drain pineapple, reserving juice. Pour juice over the spaghetti; stir in apples. Toss gently; drain. Stir in the egg mixture and pineapple. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Fold in whipped topping just before serving. Garnish with walnuts and cherries. Yield: 12-14 servings.

Molded Cranberry Fruit Salad

This tasty dish uses less sugar, salt and fat. Recipe includes diabetic exchanges.

2 packages (3 ounces each) cherry gelatin
2 c. boiling water
1 package (12 ounces) fresh or frozen cranberries
1 large apple, peeled and chopped
1 large orange, peeled, chopped and seeded
1 piece of orange peel (1 inch)
1 can (20 ounces) crushed pineapple, undrained

In a bowl, dissolve gelatin in water. Stir in all remaining ingredients. Process in small batches in a blender until coarsely chopped. Pour into a 13-in. by 9-in. by 2-in. dish or a 3-qt. serving bowl. Chill until set, about 2-3 hours. Yield: 16 servings. Diabetic exchanges: One 1/2-c. serving (prepared with sugar-free gelatin and unsweetened pineapple) equals 1 fruit; also, 47 calories, 46 mg sodium, 0 cholesterol, 11 gm carbohydrate, 2 gm protein, trace fat.



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Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. Operating Report

MONTHLY COMPARISON

	SEPTEMBER 2007	SEPTEMBER 2008
Total Revenue	\$ 595,903	\$ 622,890
Total Margins	\$ (9,203)	\$ (38,780)
Cost of Power	\$ 393,929	\$ 431,844
KWH's Purchased	8,644,408	9,208,525
Capital Credits Paid to Estates ..	\$ 12,165	\$ 7,046

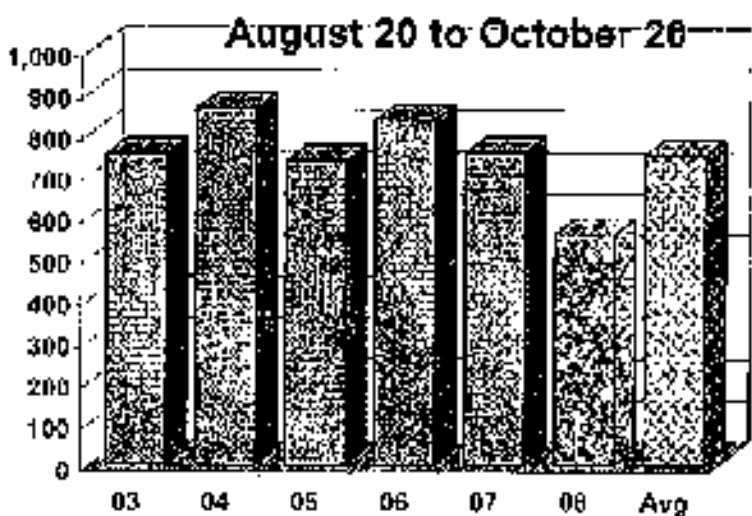
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

	SEPTEMBER 2007	SEPTEMBER 2008
Total Revenue	\$ 5,919,761	\$ 6,680,090
Total Margins	\$ 646,100	\$ 795,728
Cost of Power	\$ 3,768,008	\$ 4,263,588
KWH's Purchased	93,679,816	102,264,160
New Service Connections	30	55
Customers Served	5,087	5,140
Capital Credits Paid to Estates ..	\$ 87,260	\$ 53,443
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,330	2,325
Underground	230	233

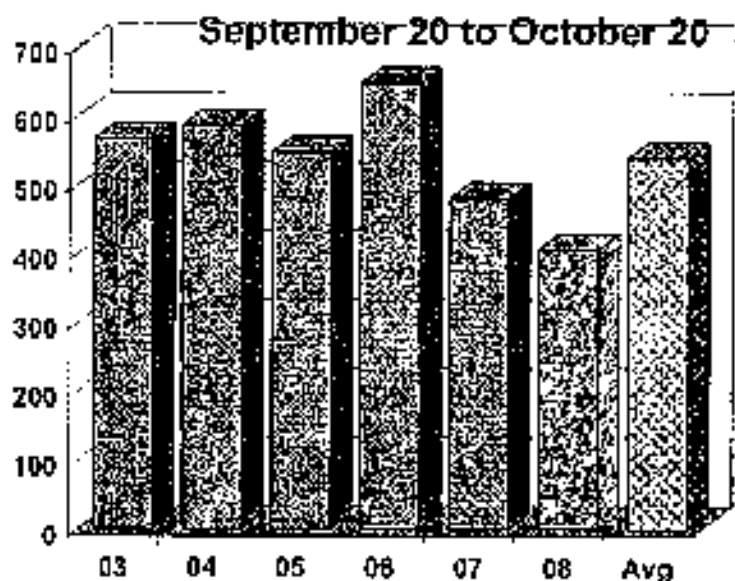
DEGREE DAYS

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





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 Can't beat the offer.**

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'07 T660 TURBO TOURING, BLK	\$7,499
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MODEL	STARTING AT
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2000 POWDER SPC. 700 W/REV.	3,600 MI. BLK. \$2,499
2001 ZH1 600, 2,800 MI. BLK.	4,006 MI. GRN. \$2,499
2001 MOUNTAIN CAT 600 EFI LE	4,006 MI. GRN. \$2,699
2004 MOUNTAIN CAT 570, 900 MI. BLK.	\$2,799
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2007 F6 EFI SNOPRO, 3,024 MI. BLK.	\$4,999
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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

History lives on at Perreault Century Farm

By Destiny Harmoning

The Perreault family farm, located just west of Terrebonne, was recognized this year as a "Century Farm" by the Minnesota Farm Bureau and the state fair board. Qualifying farms must be over 50 acres in size and must have been in the family for over 100 years.

Louis and Mary (Beauregard) Perreault began the farm. They moved to the Terrebonne area in 1879 as a newlywed couple. When they first came to the area, they made their residence in Gervais township. This is where the family farmed, producing oats and wheat and raising dairy cattle and chickens.

When the Perreault farm started, horses were vital to the farming process. They were used to plow the land and cultivate the soil.

In 1900, Louis and Mary bought about 500 acres of land, in the location that the Perreault farm sits today. The land was purchased for \$10,000.

In 1912, Louis sold approximately 400 acres of his land to his son Napoleon. When Napoleon married Amanda (Paradis) in 1914, they built a home which remains on the farm today, with some additions and updates. Napoleon and Amanda raised their nine children in the home.

Dairy cattle and chickens were raised on the farm, just like Louis had raised. They also raised sheep and pigs. Crops on the farm included wheat, barley, oats, alfalfa and corn.

Napoleon used a steam-powered threshing machine to separate the grain from the straw. This was later replaced, in 1951 when Napoleon bought the first combine for the family.

In the early 1940's, the World War II draft sent two of the Napoleon's sons into active duty. Since Vern was the youngest son, he was able to stay at home and continue to farm with his father, even though he had also been drafted.

Music was an important part of the Perreault family. In 1948, the "Perreault Rhythm Boys" were formed. Napoleon and his sons David, Harvey, Vern and Leo played in the band, entertaining locals at wedding dances and events. The music was a great form of entertainment for the family and it also helped supplement their income.

Vern grew up on the farm and graduated from Lafayette High School. He met his wife Merlyn (Fredrickson) at a wedding dance in Plummer. Merlyn had grown up on a farm near Plummer and graduated high school there. The couple were united in marriage in 1950.

Farming was the family's main source of income but Vern also did a stint at American Crystal Sugar in Crookston, worked some road construction and acquired his journeyman's license to work as an electrician.

Vern farmed with his father for many years and then rented the land following his father's death in 1962. Vern eventually purchased the land from his mother.

Vern and Merlyn Perreault's Century Farm as it looked in 1997. The only change between then and now is the barn and silo have been taken down.

easy after retirement. For 19 years, the couple wintered in Texas. They also used to spend a lot of time camping and fishing.

Merlyn enjoys spending her time being a homemaker, which she has always done for her family aside from a stint at St. John's Hospital where she worked in nursing. She enjoys reading, crocheting and quilting.

Vern enjoys playing the accordian, as he used to as a band member of the Perreault Rhythm Boys. He also enjoys building model horse sleighs, creating the sleighs and harnesses for the miniature toy horses. He is working on making one of these for each of his grandsons.

The family were members of St. Anthony Catholic Church until it closed. They are now members of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Red Lake Falls.

Vern and Merlyn no longer farm the land, but it is rented out to Darrell and Daniel Payment who grow soybeans, wheat and perennial rye grass.

Though they no longer farm, Vern and Merlyn remember what it was like, stating that trying to make ends meet was the biggest challenge. With Vern's other jobs, it all worked out.

The Perreault family farm has seen a lot of history over its 108 years. Vern himself has personally witnessed the farm go from horse-powered machinery, to steam-powered, to modern day tractors, a feat not achieved by too many.

Though none of their children currently farm, Vern and Merlyn will someday pass the farm onto all of their children in hopes that the history will live on.

Members of the Perreault family are, front from left, Lori Wavra, Vern and Merlyn Perreault, Mary Kleven; back, Lyle, Bruce, Wayne and Dennis Perreault.

Merlyn and Vern Perreault

In 1969, Vern suffered an injury while doing electrical work. During this time, he was unable to harvest. A multitude of friends and neighbors offered a helping hand during this rough time for Vern and the crops were harvested.

Vern and Merlyn raised their six children on the farm. Now all of their children are grown and have children of their own. Vern and Merlyn even have 4 great-grandchildren.

Their son, Dennis is married to Deb. They have five children and reside in Grand Rapids. Wayne lives in Nashwauk with his wife Patti and their three children. Lyle, his wife Diane and their two children live in Apple Valley. Mary married John Kleven. They have three children and live near Erskine. Lori married Dan Wavra and they have four children. Lori and her family live in Red Lake Falls. Bruce has two children with his wife Gwen. They live in Moorhead.

Vern and Merlyn remain on the farm. Though the farm was eligible for Century Farm status in 2000, it was just recognized this year and is infact 108 years old.

Things are much quiter now for Vern and Merlyn, who are just taking it

Members of the "Perreault Rhythm Boys" in 1948 are, from left, Napoleon, Harvey, Leo, David and Vern. In front is Harvey's son Tom.

Napoleon and Amanda Perreault's home in 1915. The home still stands on the Perreault family farm, but it has faced some improvements and additions.

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Underground faults present challenges

Faulted underground cable presents challenges in many ways. First it must be determined that there is an underground short. Once that is determined, line switching and back-feeding must be done to restore electric power to the affected customers. Then the fault needs to be located and repaired which is time consuming. Once the cable is repaired, the line switching is restored to the normal positions and the cable can be re-energized. Dick Gervais, crew foreman, works to ground out an underground junction box so the faulted cabled can be "thumped" to locate the fault.



Red Lake Electric hires PKM Electric of Warren to locate underground cable faults. Their truck is equipped with a Smart-Thump thumper and radar unit. Cables from the thumper are hooked to the faulted underground wire and the radar will indicate the approximate footage to where the fault is. The thumper also puts a higher voltage charge onto the wire which will send a shock wave into the ground in the area of the faulted wire.



Ira Cota, lineman, uses an underground locator to determine the path of the underground wire.



Once the underground fault location has been determined the cable needs to be exposed to splice the cable. Brett Knott, apprentice lineman (in the trench) and Roger Valley, crew foreman, work to uncover the underground cable.



Before repairs can be made to the underground cable it needs to be isolated and grounded. Mike Wavra, left, lead lineman, and Casey Thronson, lineman, check the cable with a voltage detector, at a junction cabinet, to make sure the cable is de-energized.



Mike Wavra uses an insulated fiberglass "shotgun" stick to disconnect the other end of the underground cable where it terminates on the riser pole.



Once the cable is totally disconnected and grounded, the repair splice can be made to the wire. The linecrew works to make the splices on two cables that had faulted. Once the splices are complete the trench is filled and the line switching is restored to the normal positions and the cable can be re-energized. These cable faults occurred on a line northeast of Red Lake Falls on a Sunday afternoon affecting approximately 50 customers at the time of the fault.



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Peterson receives electrical award

Ethan Peterson, Thief River Falls, recently received a cordless electric drill from Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Red Lake Electric sponsors the award for the Pennington County 4-H electric project winner. Ethan is a member of the Silverton 4-H Club and the son of David and Betty Peterson.

Co-op Month
Energy Credit Winners

In observance of Co-op Month in October, Red Lake Electric Cooperative awarded five \$50 energy credits. A random drawing of the Cooperative's members was conducted and the following people received a \$50 credit on their electric bill: Tom Blazejewski, Newfolden; Jeff Langan, Thief River Falls; Steve Heden, Plummer; June Brustad, Mentor; and Craig and Shelly Flatgard, Oklee.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Thanksgiving Day, November 27.

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

Happy Thanksgiving!

Keeping warm with window treatments

Window treatments and coverings aren't just for decoration, they can also go a long way in saving energy. Some carefully selected window treatments, such as draperies and insulating panels, can keep heat from escaping through window panes in winter.

A drapery's ability to reduce heat loss and gain depends on several factors, including fabric type (closed or open weave) and color. Although it's difficult to generalize about energy performance, when drawn during cold weather most conventional draperies can reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10 percent. In winter, you should keep draperies that don't receive direct sunlight closed during the day and close all draperies at night.

Draperies should be hung as close to windows as possible to reduce heat exchange and should fall onto a windowsill or floor. For



maximum effectiveness, install a cornice at the top of a drapery or place the drapery against the ceiling. Then seal the drapery at both sides with Velcro or magnetic tape, and overlap it in the center. Such snug window treatments can reduce

heat loss by up to 25 percent.

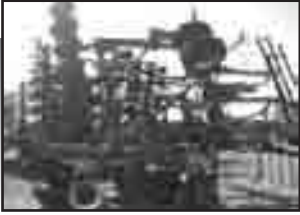
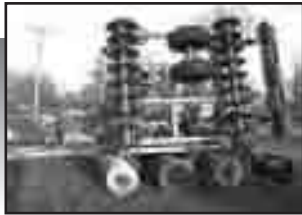
An inexpensive insulating window panel or pop-in shutter, typically made of a core of rigid foam insulation, also reduces heat loss. The panels are made so that their edges seal tightly against the window frame, and they can be pushed or clipped into the interior of a window. No hardware, such as hinges or latches, is required.

Of course, window treatments aren't effective at reducing air leakage or infiltration-caulk and weather strip around windows to reduce drafts. Also, draperies work best for winter weather. Window blinds are more effective at reducing summer

heat gain than winter heat loss. For more information, visit eere.energy.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

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Cougar 1 Steiger	\$7,500.00
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TW 35 Ford MFD duals clean	\$29,000.00
TW20 2WD	\$16,500.00
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5230CIH MFD Loader	\$33,500.00
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If you have any questions about the Auto Pay please call RLEC at 800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.

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