



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. 11

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

SEPTEMBER 2009

Twist and save with energy-efficient light bulbs

Minnesota residents can "change the world" for as little as \$.99 per bulb after instant rebates

Minnesota residents are about to discover that saving energy and money really is as easy as a twist of the wrist. From Oct. 1 through Nov. 30, 2009, residential electric customers of Red Lake Electric Cooperative are eligible for special pricing that will allow them to purchase Energy Star qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) for as little as \$.99 at participating retailers. (Limit 12 bulbs per customer, while supplies last.)

The compact fluorescent rebate program is held in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) national Energy Star "Change a Light" campaign.

Energy Star qualified CFLs use up to 75 percent less electricity than standard incandescent light bulbs, last up to 10 times longer and produce about 75 percent less heat than incandescents, improving safety. By replacing the five most used bulbs in a home with energy-efficient CFLs, families can save \$35 in energy costs during the first year alone.

Today's CFLs produce bright, warm light at less cost to con-



sumers and businesses because they use (4409081.03 Jeff D. Lane) less electricity and last longer than incandescent bulbs, saving time and money on replacements. With the wide range of CFL shapes, sizes and styles now on the market, consumers can find an energy-efficient bulb for every situation and enjoy reduced energy costs all year long.

"Becoming part of the solution to global climate change takes less time and effort than people might think. We can all start by taking simple steps like changing a light or looking for the Energy Star when we purchase new products," said Kathleen Hogan, Director of the Climate Protection Partnerships Division at EPA. "Together, we can make a difference and protect our environment through simple every-

day actions."

For more information about Energy Star qualified CFLs or to find participating retailers, call 888-476-9548.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative serves more than 4,300 rural residences and businesses in Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk and Clearwater counties.

The Cooperative can be contacted at 800-245-6068, 253-2168 or redlake@minnkota.com. The Cooperative's Web site is www.red-lakeelectric.com.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency introduced the Energy Star program in 1992 as a voluntary market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through increased energy efficiency. Today, Energy Star offers businesses and consumers energy-efficient solutions to save energy, money and help protect the environment for future generations. More than 12,000 organizations partner with Energy Star to improve the energy efficiency of products, homes, buildings and businesses. For more information about Energy Star, visit www.energystar.gov or call toll-free 888-STAR-YES(782-7937).

Minnkota faces revenue shortfall

The economic downturn in the U.S. has contributed greatly to a significant 2009 revenue loss at Minnkota Power Cooperative.

Primarily because of that economic slide, Minnkota is expecting a \$20 million revenue shortfall this year.

Why such a big number? A major reason is that demand for electricity is significantly less this year than in recent years. Since the regional wholesale energy market is driven, in large part, by demand for electricity, the market has been extremely low for most of 2009, about 2 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) less than normal.

Minnkota sells its surplus energy, when available, into the regional wholesale energy market. A significant amount of the wind energy Minnkota has recently contracted to purchase to meet both the Minnesota Renewable Energy Standard and the North Dakota Renewable Energy Objective is now surplus energy.

This has resulted in a difficult year for Minnkota's surplus energy revenue. For instance, Minnkota is expected to sell approximately 1.4 billion kWh of surplus energy in 2009. Since Minnkota is receiving nearly 2 cents per kWh less than expected for our surplus wholesale energy, Minnkota will likely receive \$28 million less surplus energy sales revenue than expected.

Minnkota will benefit, though, from the low market prices when purchasing energy from the regional wholesale market. An \$8 million reduction in the expected cost of energy purchased from the market for off-peak loads and replacement energy will partially offset the shortfall, but, even with that offset, it still leaves a \$20 million net shortfall.

"This year will be remembered as a year in which Minnkota Power Cooperative (2625004.01 Harris Gene Halvorson) felt the same pressure from the economic downturn as the U.S. as a whole," said David Loer, Minnkota president



and CEO. "This is not a catastrophic situation that will cause Minnkota to go bankrupt or fail, but it is a situation that requires our attention and an acceptable solution."

"We need to examine areas where Minnkota can internally save expenses in 2009 and 2010. We do not expect to offset the entire \$20 million; that would not be possible. But where we can, we need to save."

To cover the shortfall, Minnkota will unfortunately need to increase its wholesale power rates for member/owner cooperatives, likely through a special surcharge. It is now estimated that a surcharge of

about 11 percent for a one-year period will be likely.

Loer is hopeful that the economic (6936002.06 Sandra J. Gagner) recovery needed to normalize the wholesale power market prices will occur soon. If not, continued revenue reductions could be experienced in 2010 and could result in another surcharge implementation.

"Over the next few weeks we will be working with our member/owners to develop a plan to recover from this revenue shortfall," Loer said.

Minnkota's goal continues to be to provide reliable service and adequate supply at an affordable price.

Energy Efficiency - Proper Insulation

One of simplest ways to reduce your home's heating and cooling costs and improve comfort involves installing proper insulation. Doing so provides resistance to heat flow. The more heat flow resistance your insulation provides, the lower your heating and cooling costs.

Heat flows naturally from a warmer to a cooler space. In winter, heat moves directly from heated living spaces to adjacent unheated attics, garages, basements, and even outdoors. It can also travel indirectly through interior ceilings, walls, and floors wherever there is a difference in temperature.

During the summer cooling season, the reverse takes place. Heat flows from the outdoors to the interior of a house.

To maintain comfort, heat lost in the winter must be replaced by your heating system. In summer, heat gained must be removed by your cooling system. Proper insulation, though, decreases heat flow.

Heat flow resistance is measured



CertainTeed Corporation

or rated in terms of its R-value. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulation's effectiveness.

When calculating the R-value of a multilayered installation, add R-values of individual layers. Installing more insulation in your home increases the R-value.

Insulation effectiveness also depends on how and where it's installed. For example, insulation that gets compressed will not provide its full rated R-value. The

overall R-value of a wall or ceiling will be somewhat different from the R-value of the insulation because some heat flows around the insulation through studs and joists. Therefore, it's important to properly install your insulation to achieve the maximum R-value.

For more information, visit <http://www.eere.energy.gov>.

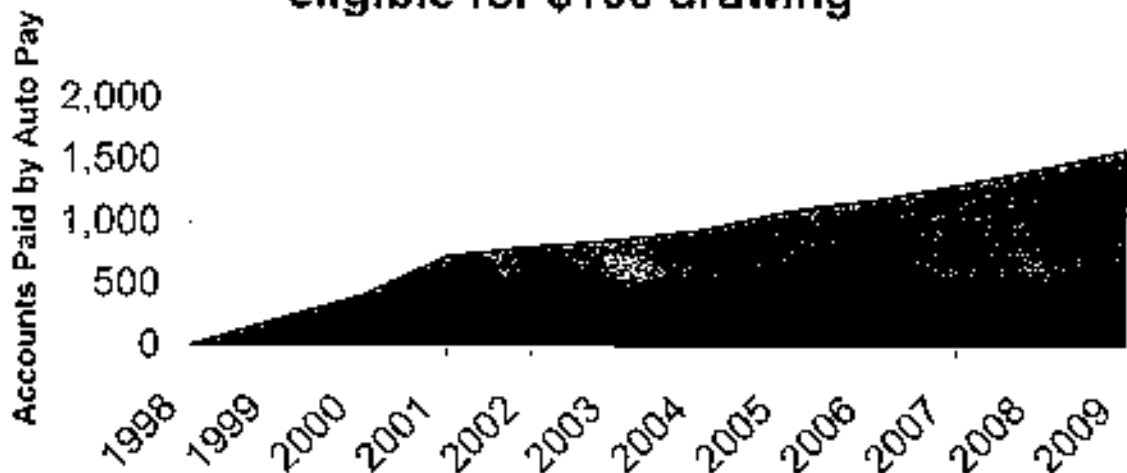
Source: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

As the chart below shows, more and more Red Lake Electric Cooperative customers are enjoying the convenience and secure method of paying their monthly energy bill with Auto-Pay. To show our appreciation, customers who use Auto-pay to pay their monthly bill will automatically be entered into a \$100 drawing on October 6th. For your convenience, an Auto-pay sign up sheet is included with the bill you receive this month. Have a question about Auto-pay? Give us a call at Red Lake Electric Cooperative today. 1-800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.

Auto-Pay Customers eligible for \$100 drawing



Pipeline installation generates powerline work

The largest active construction project in Minnesota is currently underway in northwest Minnesota. It is the Enbridge Alberta Clipper pipeline project.

This project is the installation of a 1,000-mile crude oil pipeline

stretching from Hardisty, Alberta to Superior, Wisc. The pipeline is expected to be in service by mid-2010 with an initial capacity of 450,000 barrels per day.

The pipeline project passes through Red Lake Electric Cooper-

ative's service territory from northwest of Viking to southeast of Oklee. The installation of the pipeline has generated work for Red Lake Electric's line crew.



Field offices for Enbridge and several other companies associated with the Alberta Clipper project are setup north of Thief River Falls along the east side of Highway 59. Above, Red Lake Electric line personnel have set poles for security lights.
More photos on page 5



Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



The future outlook for energy rates

I encourage members to take a few minutes if you haven't done so already, to read the news from Minnkota Power Cooperative printed elsewhere in this month's *Volts & Jolts*. Obviously the news of their revenue shortfall is not what we wanted to hear, but it is the reality of the economics they are working with in today's (and this year's) wholesale energy market.

When planning for 2009, Minnkota estimated it would have about 6 billion kWh's of electricity available for supplying their member systems (that includes us, Red Lake Electric Cooperative) located in Northwestern Minnesota and Northeastern North Dakota.

Minnkota's energy supply that exceeds the demands of Red Lake Electric Cooperative and the other Minnkota member systems is sold in the regional wholesale energy market. The excess energy available to sell to the wholesale market is expected to be 1.4 billion kWh's in 2009 or about one fourth of Minnkota's energy resources.

So far in 2009, Minnkota's energy supply, it's kWh sales of energy to it's member systems and it's kWh sales of excess energy to the region-

al wholesale energy market have been as expected. The price they receive for the surplus energy sold in the wholesale market, however, has not. Revenue, as Minnkota pointed out in their report, is less than they planned for. Market prices are about half of what was anticipated when their 2009 budget was prepared.

The loss of revenue to Minnkota because of low market prices received from their surplus energy sales (3823007.01 Vernon D. Dokkin) is a significant amount; significant enough that Minnkota will likely have to recover this lost revenue through a temporary rate surcharge from the energy they sell Red Lake Electric Cooperative and the rest of the Minnkota Power member systems.

What will an increase in wholesale energy rate surcharge from Minnkota Power mean to your Red Lake Electric Cooperative and in turn, you, our customer?

Fortunately for Red Lake Electric Cooperative, our financial outlook is good through the first eight months of 2009 and is expected to continue on that trend for the balance of the year. Revenue has been better than what was budgeted for the year because of an increase in energy sales to you members. Our expenses have been less than we expected and that has also helped Red Lake Electric Cooperative's financial outlook for 2009.

The 11 percent increase in the wholesale energy rate (surcharge) that Minnkota is likely to put in place would equal a half cent per kWh and would run for 12 months beginning in October of this year. Tacking on a half cent per kWh to the energy your cooperative purchases from Minnkota means \$183 thousand to RLEC for the last three months of 2009.

Thanks to the good year RLEC has had financially so far in 2009, there is a good chance this increase in cost to the Cooperative will be absorbed and not passed on to members in 2009. It is likely as well that the surcharge would be

passed on to members beginning in 2010.

Members of the Red Lake Electric Cooperative as well as other Minnkota Power Systems members have long benefited from Minnkota's low cost energy generated at their mine mouth coal plants in central North Dakota. Recent governmental regulations however, coupled with the loss of revenue from regional pool energy sales have had a significant impact to Minnkota's bottom line.

Significant environmental plant upgrades required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to Minnkota's coal fired power plants, the Minnesota renewable energy mandate that requires Minnkota to generate 25 percent of it's retail sales in Minnesota from renewables by 2025 and the cost of Minnesota's Conservation Improvement Programs (CIP) required of electric utilities are expensive. Minnkota's projected rates and the rates we will need to pass on to our customers, will reflect these added costs through future expected rate increases.

Talking about the rising cost of energy isn't something I enjoy doing but it is important that you stay informed about these issues. Our history has shown that we have been a competitive supplier of energy for our customers and it is our goal to do what we can to continue that trend.

From the Mail Bag

Dear Red Lake Electric:

I would like to thank you for the scholarship you awarded me. It will help pay for expenses at the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences in the Twin Cities. While at the U, I plan to pursue a major in plant biology. With this major, I hope to gain acceptance into the University of Minnesota Dental School. Following graduation from Dental School, I will return to Thief River Falls to start a practice. Once again thank you for the scholarship.

Sincerely,
Cydnee Peterson
Thief River Falls

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.

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ONE CALL

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Member Service Department

by Kevin Reich

Conservation programs for business customers

Each month throughout the summer there has been information in the "Volts and Jolts" highlighting incentives that are available as part of the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP). In this article I will review some of the incentives that are available for business customers.

When referring to business it generally means anything that is not residential in nature; house, garage, hobby shop or the typical agricultural setup; machinery shed, cattle shed, grain bin setup. A business can be a machinery dealership, a convenience store, a livestock confinement building, a dairy operation or a farm shop just to name a few.

Many of the business conservation incentives require minimal annual usage hours. For motors and variable frequency drives it requires 1,500 hours or more. For many of the light rebates, it requires more than 1,800 hours of operation

annually.

Since 2007 the only incentives offered for business customers was for lighting retrofits. With the new CIP programs, (5822002.09 Mike LaCoursiere) the incentives cover numerous different types of equipment. Programs apply to lighting retrofits and lighting for new construction. Following are some prescriptive examples.

If a machinery dealership currently uses T12 fluorescent lights to light the showroom, there is an incentive to change the lights to T8s. A convenience store owner can change out a rooftop air conditioner to a more efficient unit and receive a rebate. A farmer could receive a rebate for installing T8 or T5 fluorescent lights in a new hog confinement barn. A farmer could build a new farm shop with a geothermal heat pump and receive a rebate on the heat pump. There are numerous scenarios.

There are also possibilities for

business customers with custom programs. With a custom project there is not a pre-determined rebate. Each custom project is reviewed on a case-by-case basis and the rebate amount is determined by the cost of the project and the projected kilowatt hour savings. A large custom project could yield a rebate of several thousand dollars.

Recently, one of Red Lake Electric's dairy farm families installed a plate cooler in their milk pipeline and a heat recovery unit on their bulk tank compressor and they received more than a \$3,300 rebate.

Another case under review is the feasibility of changing out several smaller motors to one large motor in a processing plant. Again the possibilities are numerous.

A chart outlining some of the business energy efficiency incentives is also included in this publication. If you have questions about a conservation program contact Red Lake Electric.

Pembina Trail council celebrates National RC&D week Sept. 20-26

Pembina Trail Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) council joins the 375 RC&D councils across the country in celebrating RC&D Week.

The week of Sept. 20 through 26 is designed to raise greater public awareness of RC&D councils and their activities in local communities. National RC&D week coincides with the anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962 which established the RC&D program that covers 85 percent of the U.S. and its territories.

Joan Smith Freeman, President of the National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Council, expressed appreciation to the thousands of RC&D council members who celebrate the National Community Service that Resource Conservation and Development councils provide to America.

President Freeman affirmed,

"The strength of RC&D is that local people create solutions for local needs. In these times of economic downturn, RC&D councils are invaluable in solving community problems in conservation and community development. RC&D Councils are far too important to go unnoticed in our communities."

The Pembina Trail RC&D council's mission is "to provide leadership and assistance in coordinating the development of our human and natural resources".

The council is made up of local leaders who volunteer their time. Pembina Trail RC&D's service area includes the counties of Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk and Norman. The RC&D area is locally organized, sponsored and led.

Because of this, local people can come together to make choices for their communities working on projects for land conservation, land

management, water management, community development or something unique to their particular area. The council determines area needs and creates solutions.

Some of the projects the Pembina Trail RC&D council has been involved in recently include installing dry hydrants for rural fire protection, securing grant dollars to help combat weed problems and sponsoring grazing tours to assist area producers with implementing rotational grazing systems.

Those who would like to become a volunteer for Pembina Trail RC&D or have a project requiring technical assistance can contact the office at 218-253-2646 extension 4 for more information.

To learn more about the Pembina Trail RC&D visit www.pembina-trailrcd.org and for information on the NRCS RC&D program visit <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/projects/rcd>.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

Things you should know about your electric service

BILLINGS AND COLLECTION

You will receive your energy bill on or near the 20th of each month.

Payment of your monthly energy bill is due on the 20th of the month. You may pay your bill in person at RLEC during office hours, use the 24-hour drive-up drop box located next to the RLEC office, by Auto Pay, or by mail. Payment must be in the office, drop box, Auto Pay, or in the mail, as evidenced by the postmark, by the 5th day of the following month to avoid a late payment charge. A 1 1/2% monthly late payment charge will be computed on delinquent energy bills, the minimum late payment charge will be \$1.00.

If your payment is not received by the 15th of the month, a final notice of disconnection statement will be included on your following bill. The final notice statement will notify you when your electric service will be disconnected if the delinquent amount remains unpaid. If an employee is sent to disconnect your electric service, a \$50 collection fee will be charged to your account, even if you pay the collector.

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

BAD CHECKS

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

OUTAGES

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

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

METER TESTS

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

STOPPED METERS

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

METER READINGS

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

GENERAL SERVICE RATES

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

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

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

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.

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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.

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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Honoring the Holen family heritage

By Destiny Harmoning

Selmer and Helen Holen of Goodridge live on a farm that has been in the Holen name for over a century where they carry on their family heritage.

Helen grew up in Marshall County about 10 miles away from the Holen farm. Selmer grew up on the farm and graduated high school in Crookston.

Selmer and Helen were married June 28, 1952. "I saw a beautiful lady and I decided I wasn't going to let her get away," Selmer said of meeting his wife.

The Holens are now retired but Helen previously worked as a cook at Valley Home in Thief River Falls for nine years and at Oakland Park in Thief River Falls for three years. Selmer worked on the farm and drove school bus for Goodridge for 25 years. He also worked in the iron range for a few years. The couple also spent two summers at a Bible camp where they helped out.

The Holens have three children: Linda, Leann and Richard.

Linda, who worked as an accountant for John Deere in Thief River Falls married Pete Bower, the retired chief of police in Thief River Falls. Linda and Pete's two children are Eric, who is the manager of Sherwin Williams Paint in Virginia, Minn., and Heather, who is the assistant vice president of Wells Fargo in Arizona.

Leann, who raises beef cattle and works full-time at the Grygla bank, is married to Donald Wikert who is a mechanic. Their two children are Kyle, a carpenter in Thief River Falls, and Kelsey, a soon-to-be stay-at-home mother.

Richard works road construction for Minn-Dak Asphalt in Thief River Falls. He lives in another house on the Holen family farm. He has three children: Angie, who works at Northwest Manufacturing in Red Lake Falls, Jamie, who works at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen, and Samuel, who is an eighth grader at Fertile/Beltrami School.

Selmer and Helen also have two great-grandchildren who attend school in Arizona: Makenzie is in the eighth grade and Sadie is a sophomore.

In her free time, Helen enjoys crocheting, using the computer, sending e-mails to her family, digital photography, cooking and baking.

Helen has crocheted an afghan for each of her grandchildren and has placed many of her crochet works in fairs where she has received grand champion ribbons and competed on the state level.

She also used to bake wedding cakes. She went to school to learn the trade and used to make them professionally. She made many cakes for neighbors and relatives.

Helen was named Outstanding Senior Citizen for Pennington County in 2006.

The Holens are members of Reinert Free Church where Helen serves as an officer and treasurer of the ladies' aide.

Selmer and Helen Holen

Selmer and Helen both enjoy camping, bird watching, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, driving their golf cart and mowing the lawn, which typically takes all day to do. "I like a nice lawn," Selmer said.

Selmer enjoys hunting, fishing and wood-working. He has crafted a cedar chest for each of their granddaughters and one grandson. He also helped his son make solid oak cabinets and enjoys making picture frames, among many other things.

Maintaining their 60-foot by 80-foot garden is another hobby of Selmer's. They grow celery, head lettuce, potatoes, carrots, sweet corn, string beans, peas, cabbage, cucumbers, squash, parsnips and onions.

The barn where the Holens used to raise cattle and their camper. The Holens enjoy camping in their free time.

The Holens never sell any of their produce, instead they like giving extra harvest to their friends and neighbors. "We enjoy sharing," Helen said.

Another interest of the Holens is carrying out their Norwegian heritage. Helen has made costumes for them that they have worn at events. Selmer can speak and understand Norwegian.

The Holens have a connection to Norway, with Selmer's father Halvor coming to America from there when he was merely 19 years old. Halvor homesteaded the family farm and built the house that Selmer and Helen now live in.

"He was a hard-working man," Selmer said of his father. Halvor farmed the homesteaded land and built all of the buildings. He would also walk to North Dakota where he did logging in the winter and then would walk back to the family farm.

Selmer and Helen visited Norway in 1974. At the time, their daughter Linda and her husband were stationed in Germany. Selmer and Helen went on a 28-day excursion to visit them and Norway. They traveled from Ger-

many to Norway by train.

"It was like a picture painted on velvet, it was so beautiful," Helen said of Norway.

While in Norway, they visited relatives of Selmer's and saw the church where his father had been confirmed and married in.

"It was interesting to see where my mother and dad had lived and grew up as kids," Selmer said of visiting Norway.

Another tie the Holens have to Norway is they hosted a 4-H exchange student from Norway for six weeks. He was a 19-year-old boy named Oistein Anderson. He had enjoyed driving their noisy pick-up truck and referred to hay bails as "hay balls."

"We sure had a great, great time with him, he was just a wonderful character to have," Helen said.

He has since come back to visit them. Selmer and Helen also discovered that Selmer's relatives knew Oistein in Norway.

When Selmer took over farming the family land, it wasn't easy getting started. The first year, hail destroyed all of the crop. Then he trapped to make a living. The next year they lost it all again, but he had hail insurance this time. The next year after that the crop was drowned out.

Then when Selmer's brother came home from the service, he began farming the land so Selmer and Helen headed to the Iron Range for a few years where Selmer worked in the mines. Then they came back and bought the farm.

Throughout the history of the farm, both dairy and beef cattle have been raised, as well as 480 acres of grain.

Selmer and Helen's children participated in 4-H. Selmer said he would buy them good hereford cattle and help them break them, but after that they were on their own. "If they wanted a grand champion they were going to earn a grand champion," Selmer said. They had done just that, getting grand champion ribbons almost every year and participating in the state showcase numerous times.

Selmer stopped raising cattle when he started having trouble with timber wolves attacking the herd.

The farm land is now rented out to Bob and Aaron Miller.

The family farm was honored as a century farm in 2006. The official homestead documents had to be retrieved from Washington, D.C.

The Holens hosted a reunion and celebration in June of that year where they had sack races, minnow races and a watermelon eating contest.

One of their neighbors had painted the sign that stands out at the end of their property declaring their century farm status. The sign depicts a horse and sleigh in winter.

The Holen farm is no-question rich with family history and heritage that Selmer and Helen continue to carry on through the years.

Selmer's garden is packed with vegetables including these 22-pound cabbages.

Helen sewed this in honor of their century farm.

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Above: Casey Thronson, lineman, nears completion of the work on the three-phase pole as he prepares to tie in the last phase wire to the insulator. The crossarm and insulator pin are covered with insulated blankets to help avoid contact with anything of different potential as the line remains energized during the installation of the pole.



Left: Michaels is the contractor installing the Alberta Clipper pipeline for Enbridge. Enbridge has very strict clearance requirements between any overhead powerline and work within their right-of-way (ROW). These clearance requirements have necessitated the move of some Red Lake Electric's poles. Left, a line crew works to install a new three-phase pole northwest of Oklee.



Small game hunting opens; blaze orange required

Grouse, rabbit, squirrel and partridge seasons open Sept. 19, offering many Minnesotans the opportunity to discover and explore more than 5 million acres of Minnesota's fields and forests this fall.

"Small game season is a forgotten pleasure," said Dennis Simon, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wildlife section chief. "It doesn't take a large investment of time and money or much hunting expertise to get out and find grouse, squirrels and rabbits."

All that is needed to hunt is a blaze-orange-colored article of clothing above the waist, a small caliber rifle or shotgun, a valid hunting license and firearms safety training, and a suitable hunting location. Complete details about seasons, requirements and bag limits are listed on pages 37-44 of the 2009 Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook.

"This should be a great small

game season, the kind you look forward to sharing with friends and family," said Simon.

Simon noted that higher ruffed grouse numbers will likely lure some folks who haven't hunted recently back to their favorite grouse coverts. The higher grouse numbers also make for an ideal year to introduce a youngster or friend to grouse hunting.

As the small game season approaches, Simon encourages hunters and would-be hunters to learn about the apprentice hunter validation program. This program allows residents born after Dec. 31, 1979, and ages 12 or older, a one-time exemption to hunt small game without having completed firearms safety training. However, they must purchase a \$3.50 validation and comply with necessary safety provisions. The program applies to other small game species too, including waterfowl hunting.

which opens Oct. 3, and pheasant hunting, which opens Oct. 10.

"With bird numbers up and barriers to participation down, this is the year to enjoy Minnesota's small game hunting opportunities," Simon said.

He encourages people who are just getting into hunting to learn about the state's Wildlife Management Area (WMA) system, which offers hunting on its 1.2 million acres. State, county and national forests also offer opportunities.

The WMA system, one of the largest and most developed in the United States, contains 1,380 public wildlife areas across Minnesota, with habitat ranging from prairies and wetlands to forests and swamps. State forests offer an additional 4 million acres in 58 designated areas.

Details about WMAs and state forests are available online at www.mndnr.gov/destinations.

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Product Category	Product Type	Tax Credit Specification	Tax Credit	Notes
Insulation	Insulation	Meets 2009 IECC & Amendments	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 ²	For insulation to qualify, its primary purpose must be to insulate (example: insulated siding does not qualify). Must be expected to last 5 years OR have a 2 year warranty
Windows & Doors	Exterior Windows and Skylights	U factor \leq 0.30 SHGC \leq 0.30	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 ²	Not all ENERGY STAR labeled windows and skylights qualify for tax credit.
	Storm Windows	Meets IECC ¹ in combination with the exterior window over which it is installed, for the applicable climate zone	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 ²	
	Exterior Doors	U factor \leq 0.30 SHGC \leq 0.30	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 ²	Not all ENERGY STAR doors will qualify.
	Storm Doors	In combination with a wood door assigned a default U-factor by the IECC ¹ , and does not exceed the default U-factor requirement assigned to such combination by the IECC	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 ²	
Roofing	Metal Roofs, Asphalt Roofs	All ENERGY STAR qualified metal and reflective asphalt shingles	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 ²	
HVAC	Central A/C	<i>Split Systems:</i> EER \geq 13 SEER \geq 16 <i>Package systems:</i> EER \geq 12 SEER \geq 14	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 ²	For a list of qualified products, go to the Consortium for Energy Efficiency product directory, click on the Air Conditioners and in the "CEE Tier" enter "Residential Advanced Tier 3" for CAC Split Systems, and "Residential Tier 2" for CAC package systems and ASHPs.
	Air Source Heat Pumps	<i>Split Systems:</i> HSPF \geq 8.5 EER \geq 12.5 SEER \geq 15 <i>Package systems:</i> HSPF \geq 8 EER \geq 12 SEER \geq 14	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 ²	Note—not all ENERGY STAR products will qualify for the tax credit. ENERGY STAR Spec. (Same for CAC and ASHP): Split systems: Package systems: HSPF=8.2 HSPF=8 EER=12 EER=11 SEER=11 SEER=14
	Natural Gas or Propane Furnace	AFUE \geq 95	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 ²	For a list of qualified products, go to the Gas Appliance Manufacturing Association:
	Oil Furnace	AFUE \geq 90	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 ²	Not all ENERGY STAR products will qualify for the tax credit.
	Gas, Propane, or Oil Hot Water Boiler	AFUE \geq 90	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 ²	ENERGY STAR Spec: Gas Furnaces: AFUE=90 Oil Furnaces: AFUE=85 Boilers: AFUE=85
	Advanced Main Air Circulating Fan	No more than 2% of furnace total energy use.	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 ²	
	Water Heaters	Gas, Oil, Propane Water Heater	Energy Factor \geq 0.82 or a thermal efficiency of at least 90%.	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 ²
Electric Heat Pump Water Heater		Same criteria as ENERGY STAR: Energy Factor \geq 2.0	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 ²	All ENERGY STAR electric heat pump water heaters will qualify.
Biomass Stove	Biomass Stove	Stove which burns biomass fuel ⁵ to heat a home or heat water. Thermal efficiency rating of at least 75% as measured using a lower heating value.	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 ²	

For complete details, go to www.energystar.gov or contact your tax accountant.

Reports provide details about fall color at state parks in five geographic areas. Detailed color reports for individual state parks

- Late September to mid-October in the Twin Cities area.
- Early to mid-October in southern and southeastern Minnesota.

- Early to mid-October in southern and southeastern Minnesota.

Product Category	Product Type	Tax Credit Specification	Tax Credit	Notes
Biomass Stove	Biomass Stove	Stove which burns biomass fuel ⁵ to heat a home or heat water. Thermal efficiency rating of at least 75% as measured using a lower heating value.	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 ²	
Geo-Thermal Heat Pump	Geo-Thermal Heat Pump	Same criteria as ENERGY STAR: Closed Loop: EER >= 14.1 COP >= 3.3 Open Loop: EER >= 16.2 COP >= 3.6 Direct Expansion: EER >= 15 COP >= 3.5	30% of the cost	All ENERGY STAR geothermal heat pumps qualify for the tax credit. Use IRS Form 5695 Must be placed into service before December 31, 2016.
Solar Energy Systems	Solar Water Heating	At least half of the energy generated by the "qualifying property" must come from the sun. Homeowners may only claim spending on the solar water heating system property, not the entire water heating system of the household. The credit is not available for expenses for swimming pools or hot tubs. The water must be used in the dwelling. The system must be certified by the Solar Rating and Certification Corporation (SRCC).	30% of cost	All ENERGY STAR solar water heaters qualify for the tax credit. Use IRS Form 5695 Must be placed into service before December 31, 2016.
	Photovoltaic Systems	Photovoltaic systems must provide electricity for the residence, and must meet applicable fire and electrical code requirement.	30% of cost	Use IRS Form 5695 Must be placed into service before December 31, 2016.
Small Wind Energy Systems	Residential Small Wind Turbines	Has nameplate capacity of not more than 100 kilowatts.	30% of cost	Use IRS Form 5695 Must be placed into service before December 31, 2016.
Fuel Cells	Residential Fuel Cell and microturbine system	Efficiency of at least 30% and must have a capacity of at least 0.5 kW.	30% of the cost, up to \$500 per .5 kW of power capacity	Use IRS Form 5695 Must be placed into service before December 31, 2016.
Cars	Hybrid gasoline-electric, diesel, battery-electric, alternative fuel, and fuel cell vehicles		Based on a formula determined by vehicle weight, technology, and fuel economy compared to base year models	There is a 60,000 vehicle limit per manufacturer before a phase-out period begins. Toyota and Honda have already been phased out. Credit is still available for Ford, GM and Nissan. For more information visit: FuelEconomy.gov Use IRS Form 8910 for hybrid vehicles purchased for personal use. Use IRS Form 3800 for hybrid vehicles purchased for business purposes.
	Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles		\$2,500–\$7,500	The first 250,000 vehicles sold get the full tax credit (then it phases out like the hybrid vehicle tax credits). Effective January 1, 2009.

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Yard Machine 25 push mower

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River & Nile, appliances, racks, shelves

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2 x 6, 100 County Bikes

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GE Heavy Duty w/ice, top, 18" deep

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2 bar stools, 1 Kirby vacuum

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The garage was built in 1982 and is 24 x 24 ft. It has 2 overhead doors and a concrete floor. There is also an additional 12 x 16 ft. shed that is used for tools.

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Wanted

WANTED – Wanted 16-inch, six-hole implement rims; four-hole trailer rims and tires. 218-686-4687.

Miscellany

THE GAZETTE NOW CARRIES – Quarter-fold-size envelopes for computer-generated greeting cards. The Gazette in Red Lake Falls, 253-2594. xf

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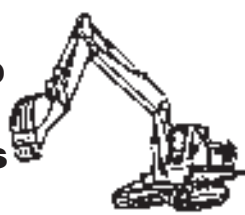
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\$100 DRAWING

OCTOBER 5, 2009

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

Auto-Pay is the easiest, most efficient way to make and process your monthly bill payment at Red Lake Electric Cooperative and we want to show our appreciation to the 1,572 customers who currently use it. If you are using Auto-Pay or sign up for Auto-Pay by Oct. 5, on October 6 you are automatically entered in the drawing.

Questions about Auto-Pay? Give Red Lake Electric Cooperative a call or e-mail redlake@minnkota.com. 1-800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.



Review the cold weather disconnection law

The cold weather law, which became effective Aug. 1, 1995, provides a guideline for Red Lake Electric Cooperative to use for properly notifying a customer of their delinquent account and determining when electricity can be shut off during the cold weather season (Oct. 15 through April 15).

This law also provides a guideline for customers to follow when their electric service is up for disconnection and what they must do to avoid disconnection of electricity during the cold weather season.

It's important to remember the cold weather rule does not prevent a shutoff of electricity during the cold weather season. Only you, the customer, can prevent a shutoff of electricity from occurring.

Other than paying your bill when it is due, you can prevent a shutoff from occurring by responding to the information RLEC will deliver with each collection notice during the cold weather months. Should you have any questions about the cold weather rule or the shutoff protection information that will be attached to each collection notice, please call RLEC. We want to help you prevent a cold weather shutoff.

COLD WEATHER LAW 216B.097. Cold weather rule,

cooperative or municipal utility.

Subdivision 1. Application; notice to residential customer.

(a) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a residential customer during the period between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met:

1. The household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. A municipal utility or cooperative electric association utility may (i) verify income on forms it provides or (ii) obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A customer is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause if the customer receives any form of public assistance, including energy assistance, that uses an income eligibility threshold at or below 50 percent of the state median household income;
2. A customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household; and
3. A customer receives referrals

to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.

(b) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must, between August 15 and October 15 each year, notify all residential customers of the provisions of this section.

Subdivision 2. Notice to residential customers facing disconnection.

Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the period between Oct. 15 and April 15, a municipal utility or cooperative electric association must provide the following information to a customer:

1. A notice of proposed disconnection;
2. A statement explaining the customer's rights and responsibilities;
3. A list of local energy assistance providers;
4. Forms on which to declare inability to pay; and
5. A statement explaining available time payment plans and other opportunities to secure continued utility service.

Subdivision 3. Restrictions if disconnection is necessary.

(a) If a residential customer must

be involuntarily disconnected between October 15 and April 15 for failure to comply with subdivision 1, the disconnection must not occur:

1. on a Friday, unless the customer declines to enter into a payment agreement offered that day in person or via personal contact by telephone by a municipal utility or cooperative electric association;
2. on a weekend, holiday or the day before a holiday;
3. when utility offices are closed;
4. after the close of business on a day when disconnection is permitted, unless a field representative of a municipal utility or cooperative electric association who is author-

ized to enter into a payment agreement, accept payment and continue service, offers a payment agreement to the customer.

Further, the disconnection must not occur until at least 20 days after the notice required in subdivision 2 has been mailed to the customer or 15 days after the notice has been personally delivered to the customer.

(b) If the customer does not respond to a disconnection notice, the customer must not be disconnected until the utility investigates whether the residential unit is actually occupied. If the unit is found to be occupied, the utility must immediately inform the occupant of the provisions of this section. If the unit

is unoccupied, the utility must give seven days' written notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider before making a disconnection.

(c) If, prior to the disconnection, a customer appeals a notice of involuntary disconnection, as provided by the utility's established appeal procedure, the utility must not disconnect until the appeal is resolved.

Subdivision 4. Application to service limiters. For the purposes of this section, "disconnection" includes a service or load limiter or any device that limits or interrupts electric service in any way.

Important notice for military personnel

Section 1. [325E.028] UTILITY PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR MILITARY SERVICE PERSONNEL.

Subdivision 1. Restriction on disconnection; payment schedules. (a) A municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility must not disconnect the utility service of a residential customer if a member of the household has been issued orders into active duty, for deployment or change in duty station if such a residential customer:

- (1) has a household income below the state median household income or is receiving energy assistance and enters into an agreement with the municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility under which the residential customer pays ten percent of the customer's gross monthly income toward the customer's bill and the residential customer remains reasonably current with those payments; or
- (2) has a household income above the state median household income and enters into an agreement with the municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility establishing a reasonable payment schedule that considers the financial resources of the

household and the residential customer remains reasonably current with payments under the payment schedule.

(b) For purpose of this subdivision, "household income" means household income measured after the date of the orders specified in paragraph (a).

Subd. 2. Annual notice to all customers; inability to pay forms.

(a) A municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility must notify all residential customers annually of the provisions of this section.

(b) A municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility must provide a form to a residential customer to request the protections of this section upon the residential customer's request.

Subd. 3. Application to service limiters. For the purposes of this section, "disconnection" includes a service or load limiter or any device that limits or interrupts electric service in any way.

Subd. 4. Income verification. Verification of income may be conducted by the local energy assistance provider or the municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility unless the customer is automatically eligible for protection against disconnection as

a recipient of any form of public assistance, including energy assistance that uses income eligibility in an amount at or below the income eligibility in subdivision 1, clause (1).

Subd. 5. Appeal process.

(a) The municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility shall provide the residential customer with a commission-approved written notice of the right to appeal to the commission or other appropriate governing body when the utility and residential customer are unable to agree on the establishment, reasonableness or modification of a payment schedule, provided for by this section. Any appeal must be made within seven working days after the residential customer's receipt of personally served notice, or within ten working days after the utility has deposited first-class mail notice in the United States mail.

(b) The utility shall not disconnect service while a payment schedule is pending appeal or until any appeal involving payment schedules has been determined by the commission.

Subd. 6. Enforcement. This section may be enforced pursuant to chapter 216B.

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 week-

end 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:
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One of the Minnkota Power Systems

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