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# RURAL DELIGHT



News from Wild Rice Electric Co-op, Inc.  
PO Box 438 • Mahnomon, MN 56557  
www.wildriceelectric.com

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## Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow

If your farm machinery comes in contact with a power line, know what to do!

- Remain calm
- Consider all lines equipment and conductors to be energized
- Do not exit from the machinery
- Call for help and warn others to stay back



40 ft. radius safe distance



If you must exit the machinery . . .



If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:

- 1.** Jump clear of the machinery. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
- 2.** Land with your feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
- 3.** Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
- 4.** Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
- 5.** Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.



# STAFF COMMENTS

Director of Member Services  
and Communications

by **Tommy Houdek**

AROUND THE CO-OP ...



## New Director



**Bjornson**

The Wild Rice Electric board of directors has appointed Randy Bjornson, Hawley, MN to fill the vacancy on the board created with the unfortunate passing of former director Gary Bergan. Mr. Bjornson will fill the District 3 position until the co-op's 2020 annual meeting scheduled for March 26th, 2020. Bjornson comes to the board with a strong farming background paired with a long history of experience serving as a board member of the Hawley Co-op. Bjornson also serves as the chairman for the Skree Township.



## Safety, A Smart Choice

Farmers and farm family members face dangers every day. Although tragedies such as tractor rollovers and grain bin suffocation seem to receive the most attention, electrocution and electrical burn accidents can also occur on the farm. The simple movement of a portable grain auger from one bin to another can have tragic results if the individuals involved are not extremely careful. The use of tractors with large cabs and antennas and oversized grain wagons can also result in preventable electrocution incidents.

Electrical equipment around fields, such as power lines in the end rows, may get overlooked during such a hectic time of year as harvest. However, failure to notice overhead power lines can be a deadly oversight. As farming equipment manufacturers compete to be bigger and better, operators need to be aware of new equipment specs. Today's farm equipment has a long reach when extended; and even when collapsed for roadway transport, many pieces of equipment may exceed the

height of power lines. A daily check should be made of where equipment will be moving to ensure that it will clear power lines. Don't take matters into your own hands, they may not be as high as they look. Always use a spotter, someone with a broad vantage point, when working in the vicinity of power lines.

Where possible, install electrical safety warning signage to prevent equipment and personnel contact with power lines. This will also be beneficial to your suppliers who may be making deliveries to your farm. Always keep in mind that electricity doesn't allow mistakes, and neither should you.



## Member Advantage

Members of the Cooperative shared in over \$754,926 in capital credits reflected in last month's statements from Wild Rice Electric. Members shared in that amount based upon their patronage from capital credits assigned from 1993. Members whom no longer have an active account with the cooperative received a check in the mail to the last mailing address on record.

A list of uncashed capital credits may be accessed by visiting our website at [www.wildriceelectric.com](http://www.wildriceelectric.com) under the Member Advantages icon. Wild Rice Electric encourages you to 'Update Your Account' using our website so that information such as capital credit checks, monthly newsletters and billing information are correctly being delivered to you. In addition, verifying your service address(s) also aides our crews in responding to emergencies and outages quickly and accurately.



## October is Co-op Month

Wild Rice Electric is celebrating 80 years of working together with our members to provide what is arguably one of the most sought after services available, especially

in this technological age. Belonging to a Cooperative means being a member of a group organized together to provide themselves with the services they need. 80 years ago Wild Rice Electric was formed by members just like you who needed electrical services. They pulled together to organize your electrical provider known today as Wild Rice Electric Cooperative. Over the years, the Cooperative has grown to over 14,300 accounts served.

## Wild Rice Electric

invites you to stop in and celebrate

your Cooperative membership

on **Wednesday, October 9th**

from **8:00am to 4:30pm**

at our office at **502 N Main Street,**

**Mahnomen.** Cookies, coffee & juice

will be available along with information on safety, energy efficiency and possible rebates for your home or business.

Tours of the facility will also be available to those interested. The Cooperative will

also draw for **(3) \$80 bill credits.**

Be sure to sign up for your chance to win.



**Wild Rice Electric Cooperative,  
sharing the power since 1939.**

# Facts & Myths

When it comes to electricity, you have to know the facts. It might save your life one day. Here are some common electrical myths:

**Myth 1:** Once a line is down, it is dead.

**Fact 1:** The electric current does not always turn off when a power line is down. Even if lines do not show signs of life (arcing, smoking, popping), they can still hold dangerous electrical current. Always treat a downed wire as energized because there is no way for you to know by looking whether it is hot or not. Just always stay away, and keep others away.

**Myth 2:** All power lines are insulated.

**Fact 2:** Most power lines are actually not insulated. The coating on the lines is actually for weatherproofing and will not offer any protection from the electrical current. Even if a power line is insulated, it can crack due to weather, reducing its safety.

**Myth 3:** There is no need to worry about power lines when digging a hole.

**Fact 3:** Always call 811 before you dig to have a professional come to your

home and locate buried public utility lines. No matter the size of a digging project, if you come into contact with a buried power line, you could be electrocuted or seriously injured.

**Myth 4:** It is safe to work around a power line at home as long as direct contact is not made.

**Fact 4:** Always keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet from power lines. This goes for ladders, pool skimmers, pruning poles and any other equipment. Always be aware of where power lines are so you do not risk electric shock. If you are trimming trees or attempting any do-it-yourself project near power lines, always call professionals for the job.

**Myth 5:** It is safe to remove the third prong from a plug.

**Fact 5:** The third prong is a safety feature designed to reduce the risk of shock or electrocution. That prong

grounds the electrical current. If the outlet is only fit for a two-prong plug, replace the outlet with a three-prong or a GFCI outlet.

**Myth 6:** Tires insulate my car from electrical dangers.

**Fact 6:** If a wire falls on your car while you are in it, the tires do not keep you from being injured by the electricity. The vehicle is the path to ground for the electrical current, so while you remain in the car, you are safe. The moment you step out of the car, you are the path to ground and in danger. If you find yourself in a situation where your car has hit a utility pole or power lines have fallen, stay in the car. Wait for a utility crew to cut the power. Only exit the car if it is on fire. Make sure to not touch the ground and the car at the same time. Jump from the car, keeping your feet together, and hop away from the scene.

## in the office . . .



The board of directors along with management staff recently had the privilege to visit with Congressman Collin Peterson at the board meeting held in July at the cooperative. A number of issues that significantly affect rural electricians were discussed as well as Congressman Peterson's involvement in the Farm Bill. Wild Rice Electric Cooperative is a strong advocate in voicing concerns that directly and indirectly impact its members with our political representatives.

# Ads

## For Sale

2003 Ford Taurus SES 24 V Runs Great, Non Smoker, Clean, 168000 Miles, Sun Roof, loaded \$1500.00 218-841-5613

Brand new Barnett Crossbow w/ red dot scope, extra arrow, broad heads, many extras, ready to hunt, \$250, 218-841-1694.

HD Black 2000 883 motorcycle for sale! Excellent condition, Like new with Screaming Eagle and seat upgrade. Crash bar also added. \$4000, 701-566-4064

1959 8N Ford tractor 4 ft mower & blade, \$4,800, 406-471-4273.

Very old 14" x 60" metal turning lathe. 2 hp single phase motor w/ 3 speed auto transmission & 4 pulleys. 5 ton Chalmers w/ belly mower, 701-541-2812.

2 phones North Western Bell & Uniden 6.0 w/ caller ID. Zebco fishing rod & reel. 2 helmets. 4 Duracell ultra-batteries (scooter, cycle) circle saw blades, 218-584-4603.

Mariner 2 cycle 45 HPS boat motor w/ controls, \$400 obo, 218-935-5576.

Killbros model 350 w/ extra side, top cover, & auger w/ John Deere trailer. International 16 ft double disc. International digger 18 ft wired w/ drag behind 45 vibra shank. 2 1/2 yard yellow scraper. Massey Ferguson no. 10 baler. All in good shape. 218-473-2329 or 218-556-8111.

5010 JD, \$3,900. 32 1/2 JD cultivator, \$1,500. 2470 Case, \$2,000. WC Allis, \$800, 218-938-4238.

Homecrest glass picnic table, excellent condition, includes 4 stackable chairs & cover, 63" x 43", \$300 or best offer, 701-212-2695.

2000 Dodge Ram Wagon, 15 Passenger Van Gray, 5.9L V8 360ci 92,000 Miles, Cruise, Tilt, Front & Rear A/C and Heat, Removable Seats, Hitch, Super Clean, Paint flaking, \$2,995, 218-289-0074.

1999 Crestliner Aluminum 16' Angler SC boat with a 1999 Shore Land'R Trailer. 35 hp Johnson motor, 2 stroke w/ oil injection. Includes a fitted Trailerite boat cover. 2018 Can-Am Defender XT Cab HD10, Camo color, 250 miles, 72.0 HP, 218-431-0174.

36' 2011 BigHorn 5th wheel w/ 4 slide outs, very nice, take it home, \$19,500, 386-288-5838/ 218-563-2288.

Skid steer attachments: tree pullers, brush mowers, dirt buckets, brush grapples and more, 701 261-3574 .

Top quality second cut alfalfa square bales; some orchard grass mix, no rain, near Cotton Lake, \$5, 218-841-2688.

2010 Polaris 500 Sportsman ATV, 554 miles, like new, \$3,500, 701-436-6039.

Older ten HP Evinrude boat motor w/ tank & hose, \$ 175, 701-741-9066.

Barnett jackal crossbow, 3 bolts & cocking rope, luminated scope. \$200 firm, 701-367-9017.

Lighted china hutch, 1974 vintage, Stanley furniture, cream color, original owner, excellent condition. W: 54" H: 80.5" D: 17.5" Glass doors, center glass panel upper, wooden doors, internal drawer lower. \$325, 701-361-6426.

Glass-topped, brass framed coffee table. 53"X28"X16". \$100. Glass (3/16" thick) provides a light, open appearance. Very good condition. No nicks or damage, 218-668-2213.

2005 Chrysler Town & Country van, white, leather seats, sunroof, rear vent windows, stow & go. New battery, damaged headlight but works, 275,000 miles. Needs tires. Very dependable. \$1800, 651-497-4203.

4 large 1970's western electric co., wire storage bins, round, 23" across & 14 1/2 high w/ metal lids & bands, \$10 ea, 218-847-4356.

White steel overhead door 8' X 10', one panel of windows, hardware. Excellent condition \$200, 218-844-5106.

Butcher hogs \$150 for whole \$75 for half delivered to Ulen Locker Sept. 7th you pay processing, 701-388-2747.

Small amounts of horizontal vinyl siding, different colors, also vinyl trim, 218-435-6724.

9' wide, 10' high white not insulated steel door. New - complete, \$400 firm, 701-799-8515.

Maxum speedboat with 120 horse Force engine. Well maintained, works great. Includes trailer & boatlift, \$ 4,995, 612-408-3665.

Classic 1963 Chevrolet Pickup. 1/2 Ton Long Bed. 8' Fleetside. 73,869 miles beige color, 6 cylinder, Heavy duty 3-speed synchromesh; steering column gearshift. Interchangeable 4WD/2WD. Restore to its original glory. \$7,800, 218-983-3721.

2010 Verns steel stock trailer, tandem axle, used very little, very good condition, 218-535-1891.

2 female German shepherd puppies, \$350 each, 218-841-0237. Graco Pac & Play \$20., Sylvania 7" Dual Screen Mobile DVD System, \$25, 218-847-7168.

Real nice slide-in pickup camper-fold down typ, 3-way fridge LP, 12 V or 110 volt- Texan brand for 8 ft pickup box. Not sure of year or model, but has been sheded except when in use, very nice chape, \$1,750 obo, 218-230-5180.

3-Cooper 235/65R17 M&S Tires. Good Tread. Asking \$25/each or \$60 for all 3, 218-261-1800 if interested.

Oval dinette table (35x59 w/10" removable leaf) with 4 chairs. Great condition. 218-483-4203

## Wanted

To borrow or rent an Angus bull, 1yr old, 218-584-4603.

Set of rice tires to fit front of John Deere 7720 combine, 218-261-0971 or 701-866-0093.

Smaller used single axle flatbed trailer for highway use. 218-784-8440. Leave Message.

Stock tanks any size, new or used, 218-579-0323.

Hardwood split or blocks. 16"-20" will pick-up, 701-799-8515.

Pick up or grain truck from the 1940's-50's w/ or w/out title, 218-280-9973.

## Our Ad Policy

- All ads must be 30 words or less.
- Ads will be abbreviated at the coop's discretion.
- No real estate or commercial ads will be accepted.
- Ads are published for members at no charge as space permits on a first-come, first served basis. Unpublished ads will not be carried over.
- Ads are due by the 10th of the month prior to publication.
- Members may submit only one ad per issue.
- Ads must be resubmitted to run an additional month.
- Ads must be typed or in clear readable print. Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.
- You can submit your ad by mail, email, fax or drop off in office. Phone ads will not be accepted.
- Fax ads to . . . 218-935-2519
- Email ads to . . . info@wildriceelectric.com
- Mail ads to . . . Wild Rice Electric P.O. Box 438 Mahnomen, MN 56557

## Cold Weather rule

216B.097 COLD WEATHER RULE; CO-OPERATIVE OR MUNICIPAL UTILITY Subdivision 1. Application; notice 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 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 the clause if the customer receives any form of public assistance, including energy assistance, that uses an income eligibility threshold set 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.

(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 of each year, notify all residential customers of the provisions of this section.

**Subdivision 2. Notice to residential customer facing disconnection.** Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the period between October 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 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; or

(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 authorized 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 a 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 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.

## 2020 Income Eligibility Guidelines

Based on 50% SMI or 110% of federal poverty guidelines, whichever is greater

Household size	Max. Annual 50% of SMI	Max. 3 Month 50% of SMI
1	\$27,047	\$6,761
2	\$35,370	\$8,842
3	\$43,692	\$10,923
4	\$52,014	\$13,003
5	\$60,336	\$15,084
6	\$68,658	\$17,164
7	\$70,219	\$17,554
8	\$71,779	\$17,944

## Energy Assistance Programs

**Becker or Mahnomen County Mahube Community Council**  
PO Box 747  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502  
218-847-1385

**Mahube Community Council**  
PO Box 76  
Mahnomen, MN 56557  
218-935-5022

**Energy Assistance Program**  
3303 US Hwy 59  
Waubun, MN 56589  
218-473-2711

**Becker County Social Services**  
712 Minnesota Ave  
Detroit Lakes MN 56501  
218-847-5628

**Mahnomen County Social Services**  
311 North Main  
PO Box 460  
Mahnomen, MN 56557  
218-935-2568

**White Earth Nation Financial Services**  
PO Box 100  
Naytahwaush, MN 56566  
844-282-6580/ 218-935-2359

**Clay County West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc.**  
411 Industria Park Blvd.  
Elbow Lake, MN 56531  
800-492-4805/ 218-685-4486

**Clay County Social Services**  
715 11th St No, Suite 502  
Moorhead, MN 56560  
218-299-5200/ 800-757-3880

**Clearwater County Clearwater Social Services**  
216 Park Ave NW  
Bagley, MN 56621  
218-694-6164

**Polk County Inter County Community Council**  
PO Box 189  
Oklee, MN 56742  
218-796-5144/ 888-778-4008  
**Polk County Social Services**  
612 N Broadway, RM 302  
Crookston, MN 56716  
218-281-3127

**W. Polk County or Norman County Tri-Valley Opportunity Council**  
102 N Broadway  
PO BOX 607  
Crookston, MN 56716  
218-281-5832/ 800-584-7020

**Norman County Social Services**  
15 2nd Ave E  
Ada, MN 56510  
218-784-5400/ 833-543-1964

## Heating Sales Tax Exemption

With the start of another heating season, we would like to remind our residential consumers who have electric heat as their primary heating system, that their electric bills are exempt from Minnesota sales tax from November through April.

If you qualify, as determined below, and have not signed a tax exemption certificate previously, please contact our office for details. All certificates signed previously are on record, and no re-filing is necessary. Portions of the sales tax law, which exempts tax from the sale of residential heating fuels, are listed as follows:

Electricity sold for residential use to consumers who are metered and billed as residential heat is exempt from the sales tax for the billing months of November, December, January, February, March and April.

But, if two meters are in place, and one is used solely or primarily to measure heating, then only the power going through that meter is exempt from the sales tax. Electricity measured by the other meter—for lights, appliances, the barn, etc.—is not tax exempt.

The "billing month" is the month the bill is dated regardless of when service is rendered.

Sales to apartment buildings, co-op apartments, condominiums or other

multiple dwelling units with more than four (4) units and having one central heating plant do not qualify for the exemption as they are not metered and billed as residential users.

"Residential user" is a residential customer using heating fuel for general household purposes and includes apartments containing less than five (5) units, fraternity houses, sorority houses, and rooming houses. Apartment units, co-op apartments and condominiums that have their own meter for heating purposes are "residential users" regardless of the number of units in the building.

When electricity is exempt as a heating fuel all other gas or electricity used through the same meter is also exempt for the six (6) month period.

These fuels must be delivered to the residence to be exempt. Sales on firewood are exempt as residential heating fuel whether delivered or picked up by the consumer.

A summer home or cabin is considered a residence and delivery of the above fuels for residential heating use is exempt.

Travel trailers, motor homes, or other recreational vehicles are not considered as a residence so their use of fuel oil, propane gas, and LP gas is not exempt.

## Heating Sales Tax Exemption Certificate

I \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Account number \_\_\_\_\_  
hereby verify that I use 50 percent or more electricity for heating purposes and request that Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. deduct the 6.875 percent sales tax for those months that are exempt.  
Consumers' Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



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**Wild Rice Electric  
Co-op, Inc.**

*This Institution is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer.*

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a day: 800-244-5709

**Office Hours:**  
8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.  
Monday- Friday

**Website:**  
[www.wildriceelectric.com](http://www.wildriceelectric.com)

**Pay bill 24 hours/ 7 days  
a week:** 877-885-7968

Also download the Wild Rice Coop  
app for free at your App Store  
of choice, to monitor usage,  
pay your bill and more.

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LaVoy, Jeff Nornes, Russ Okeson,  
Larry Sollie and Roger Winter.

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**Our office will be closed  
on Monday, September 2nd  
for observance of Labor Day.**

**Father and son enjoy fishing on a Minnesota summer day.**