

Powered by People

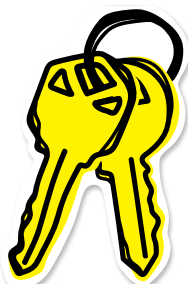
A big thank you to everyone who came out to help celebrate Wild Rice Electric's Cooperative Day! It was great to see our members, families, and community come together. Your support made the day a true success.



October is National Co-op Month and Wild Rice Electric Cooperative would like to take a moment to reflect on how grateful we are to be serving you – our friends and neighbors. You see, being a member of a co-op has a lot of perks that you won't find as a customer of an investor-owned utility (IOU).

EVERY MEMBER IS AN OWNER, NOT JUST A CUSTOMER.

Electric co-ops are member-owned, not owned by shareholders. That means your voice matters and the co-op works for your benefit, not for profit.



YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR DECISIONS.

Local control and accountability is important. Co-ops are governed by a board of directors elected by members, often your neighbors. Decisions are made locally, not in a corporate office far away.

MORE VALUE STAYS WITH YOU, NOT WALL STREET.

Unlike IOUs, not-for-profit co-ops don't pay dividends to shareholders. Any revenue above operating costs is returned to members as capital credits or reinvested to improve service.



PURPOSE OVER PROFIT.

Co-ops prioritize service, reliability, safety and community needs – not just the bottom line. Many also lead the way in energy efficiency programs and sustainable energy initiatives.

WHEN YOU SUPPORT YOUR CO-OP, YOU SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY.

Electric co-ops were built by the communities they serve. They invest locally, support schools, sponsor scholarships, and help neighbors in need through programs like Operation Round Up.



STAFF COMMENTS

Director of Finance

AROUND THE CO-OP . . .

by **Crystal Askelson**

Thank You

A big thank you to everyone who came out for Cooperative Celebration Day! It was such a fun afternoon catching up with familiar faces, meeting new ones, and celebrating the power of community. From great conversations to plenty of smiles, it was a day that reminded us why being part of a cooperative is so special. We couldn't have done it without you!

Events like this highlight the cooperative difference. Unlike investor-owned utilities, we're a member-owned cooperative. That means our focus is always on serving you, not generating profits for shareholders. Every program, service, and event we offer is built around supporting our members and strengthening our communities. That's what makes cooperatives unique, and why we're proud to serve you.

Energy Assistance

As we look ahead to cooler days, we encourage members to submit energy assistance applications as soon as possible. These programs can make a big difference when



heating costs rise, and applying early helps ensure your household gets the support it needs during the winter months.

Off- Peak Savings

This is also the perfect time to start thinking about ways to lower your energy use and monthly bills. Our Member

Services team is here to help you explore off-peak programs that shift energy use to times when demand, and rates, are lower. These programs not only save you money, but they also reduce strain on the electric system during peak hours making it a win-win for everyone.

Want to learn a little more before you call? Be sure to check out the Ask-an-Expert article in this publication for some quick tips and insights on how you can take control of your energy use.

We're grateful for your support and excited to continue serving you in the years ahead.

Highlights from the Board Room:

The Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on July 29, 2025. During the meeting, the Board was introduced to the new Journeyman Lineman and discussed the winter board meeting schedule.

A quorum of directors was present and the following actions were taken:

- **Approved** the board minutes and financial reports and statements for June 2025
- **Accepted** the second quarter 2025 Financial Review Committee Report
- **Accepted** the mid-year Safety Committee Report
- **Authorized** continued negotiations with the City of Fosston for the release of a parcel to the City.
- **Appointed** a delegate and alternate for the upcoming NRECA/ RESCO Regional Meeting
- **Adopted** a Resolution of Appreciation for the employees involved in the spring storm restoration
- **Approved** the monthly Cooperative policy review
- **Accepted** the management department reports
- **Accepted** the Minnkota Power report
- **Accepted** the MREA report

The October regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, October 28, 2025.

To stay safe this Halloween . . .

Inspect decorations and cords for damage before use, use only UL-approved products, and ensure outdoor items are rated for outdoor use. Keep electrical cords out of walkways to prevent tripping, avoid over loading outlets, and always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving the house. For pumpkins, use battery-operated candles or glow sticks instead of real flames.

**SAFETY
TIP**

Minnesota Rural Electric Association (representing rural electric cooperatives), other utilities including Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power, Xcel Energy, and the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (representing municipal power utilities)



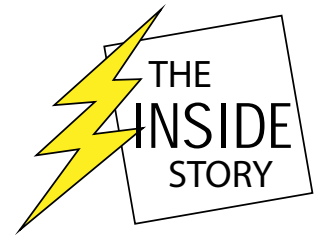
joined with the Minnesota Farm Bureau, Minnesota Farmers Union, the Cooperative Network and the Minnesota Municipal

Utilities Association in developing an important tool for dealing with stray voltage challenges. Also joining in the effort and research were the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry and Department of Agriculture. As a result, the Minnesota Stray Voltage Guide is available for livestock organizations across the state and is being used to address any concerns that may arise.

The presence of stray voltage is a normal result of electricity traveling through utility distribution systems, which must be grounded to earth to ensure safe and reliable operation. However, if problems occur, the level of voltage present on a farm can reach levels that could impact livestock. Dairy farmers are our member-owners. The Guide provides another tool to ensure any challenges they may be experiencing in this area are being addressed.

Other states have adopted standard practices to address stray voltage concern, and there has been a lot of research done. This research was used in developing this guide, and has served as the foundation for the development of standards in other states. The entire guidebook can be downloaded at <https://www.minnesotastrayvoltage-guide.com>. There is no cost to download the guidebook. As always we encourage anyone with questions to contact us.

The Member Advisory Committee recently met to discuss the development of a new brochure for Wild Rice Electric members. During the meeting, participants provided valuable input on what content should be included.



If you're interested in serving on this committee, please contact Wild Rice Electric at 1-800-244-5709.



The idea seems easy enough.

But when you're rushing to plant or get the harvest out of the ground, you might forget about those power lines on the field's edge.

Take a moment to talk to your team about how to avoid equipment contact with power lines and poles – and what to do if contact occurs.

The reminder could save a life.

Learn more and request a free safety kit from your electric cooperative system at WatchTheWires.com.



Watch the Wires is a safety campaign developed by Minnkota Power Cooperative and its member cooperatives in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.

Ads

For Sale

Used & new Skid steer attachments, brush mowers, assorted grapples, buckets, pallet & hay forks, tree & post pullers, stump grinders, & more (701) 261-3574.

Used 5 ft Grapple, can be used on 500 or 600 Series Bobcat, \$1,500, call (218) 850-3181.

3/4 hp shallow well pump, new, \$200. (701) 730-0553.

Aims 5000-watt, 12-volt DC power inverter (NEW) cost over \$500 asking \$200 or best offer, John Deere 48-inch mulching kit (New) with blades. \$75. Text (218) 850-1500.

3/4 hp shallow well pump, new, \$150, (701) 730-0553.

460-85R-42 tractor tire, 380-85R-30 tractor tire, 2 sets 18.4-38 band duels, no reasonable offer refused, (218) 849-5293.

Skid steer tree puller attachment, \$1,000, please call (701) 388-9304.

Ruger 77 30-06 3x9 Bushnell scope, \$850. Savage 99 300 Sav, \$750, (218) 847-7824.

5500 Gph trash pump w/ 75 ft of 2 in outlet hoses, a 15 ft inlet hose. New carburetor, \$300. Yuneec Typhoon H 6 blade drone w/ 2 extra batteries, extra propellers, blade protector, & console plus all chargers. \$600. New model is \$1,900. Long range Channel master TV antenna w/ booster & extender, used 2 weeks. \$175. Call (218) 668-2585, landline or (218) 401-2574.

Ruger 77 30-06 3x9 Bushnell scope, \$850. Savage 99 300 Sav, \$750, (218) 847-7824.

Sentinel insulated gun safe, 24" w x 21" d x 5" h, \$275. Bergara 6.5 Creed-moor rifle, vortex scope, \$675. Steven 243 rifle wood stock, vortex scope, \$400, (218) 204-1000.

Jiffy 8" ice auger, \$50. Snap on valve spring compressor, \$50. 3 large rolls kennel fence, \$100. 4 - 225/55-18 tire, \$50. New handyman jack, \$50. New Branick model 7200 strut machine, \$500, (218) 849-8963.

Farm fresh eggs \$4 a dozen or 2 dozen for \$7, Mahnommen area, (636) 234-7126.

Merlin ultra for low vision. Full HD color and contrast for sharp crystal-clear images. Perfect for someone w/ low vision issues. 4 years old, used very little, like new. (218) 431-0174.

2003 Dodge 4x4 gooseneck ball brake control, new tires, runs drive great, \$5,500 or best offer, (218) 261-0971.

New radiator for 91-93 mid-size Chevy, \$100. New radiator for 88-94 Chevy Blazer, \$100. New radiator Dodge Dakota 97-99, \$100. Days (218) 935-5110.

Very good quality mixed hay in 4x4 round bales. \$20 ea, (218) 841-2688 Near Cotton Lake.

16' 1980 Lund, blue, w/ trailer, 4 strok 2013 9.9 horse Yamaha motor, depth finder, \$2,000, (218) 849-9829.

Headers for 350 Chevy brand new in box, \$110. 8'x6' flatbed on 6" channel gram w/ steel bed, \$300. Wet tile saw used once, \$50. Text only (701) 405-4991.

2 1/2 yard Ashland scraper, \$2,500 or best offer (218) 230-0256.

Wanted

Electric wringer washing machine in good working order, (218) 563-3454. Polaris Ranger 4x4, (218) 280-8862.

Good used wood splitter, (701) 371-1902.

A yearling black angus heifer. Older 4x4 pick up. Rider mower. Sturdy ground blinds. Looking for tractor mechanic or someone interested in making walking trails in woods, about 6 acres. (218) 584-4603.

Large chest freezer in good working condition. Call or text (651) 329-0124.

Our Ad Policy

You can submit your ad by mail, email, or drop off in office. Phone ads will not be accepted.

- Email ads to: info@wildriceelectric.com

- Mail ads to:
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Cooperative
PO Box 438
Mahnommen, MN 56557



Wild Rice Electric is active on Facebook

We share about outages, lineworker action, safety events and all things cooperative.

Follow along: Wild Rice Electric Cooperative.



Off-Peak Programs

with Nate Pazdernik – Power Quality Coordinator

Q: I keep hearing about “off-peak.”

What does that mean?

Great question! Think about what happens when you flip on a light switch or adjust your thermostat, you probably don't consider how many of your neighbors are doing the same thing at that very moment. When lots of people are using power at once, called peak times, it puts extra strain on the grid and drives up costs for everyone. Off-peak programs help by shifting certain electric use away from those busy times. In return, members save money, and the cooperative can keep electricity more reliable and affordable for all.

Q: What kinds of things can go on off-peak?

Quite a few! Many members choose to put their electric heating systems like boilers, furnaces, or heat pumps on off-peak. Water heaters are another popular choice. If you drive an electric vehicle, charging it on off-peak is a great way to stretch your dollar, too.

Q: Will I have to change how I use electricity if I join off-peak?

Nope! That's the beauty of it, off-peak works in the background. Your water heater, heating system, or charger is managed automatically, so you can go about your day as usual, all while saving on your heating and charging bills.

Q: Why does this matter to the cooperative?

When demand for power spikes, electricity costs more. By working together through off-peak, we can avoid those extra costs, keep rates stable for everyone, and keep our system reliable. Our wholesale power provider also benefits by being able to reserve resources for when they're needed most, instead of running extra generation just to cover short bursts of demand.

In the end, it's a true win-win-win: you save money, your cooperative keeps rates affordable, and our power provider can better manage resources for a stronger, more reliable grid.

Q: How do I get started?

That's the easy part, just call our Member Services team! They'll walk you through the options and help you find the off-peak program that's the best fit for you.

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule (216B.096), electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between Oct. 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL of the following statements apply:

- ## Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not completely stop winter disconnects.

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below the state median income (\$68,845 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2026.

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.

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

Mahube Community Council
PO Box 747
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502
(218) 847-1385

**Inter County Community
Council**
PO Box 189
Oklee, MN 56742
(218) 796-5144/ (888) 778-4008

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council
102 N Broadway/ PO Box 607
Crookston, MN 56716
(218) 281-5832/ (800) 584-7020

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact us immediately to work out a mutually agreeable payment plan.

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———— The Power of Magic! ————

Laurie Betting, a Maple Lake resident near Mentor, shared a magical transformation. A tree in her yard had been maintained over the years to keep it clear of power lines, and eventually it needed to be removed, leaving only a stump behind. But instead of seeing an ending, Laurie saw a new beginning. Laurie turned the stump into a fairy house, complete with a treasure box that appears when the fairies "visit." Neighborhood kids earn little treats by doing chores, making it a fun tradition around the lake. "It's just fun" Laurie says. "The kids love it." From utility work to fairy magic - it's a sweet reminder of how imagination brings people together.



Lake neighbors to Laurie, Hadley helping her brother Brooks open the treasure chest.

