

Nov 2010 Volume 55 Number 6



NORRIS

ELECTRIC NEWS MAGAZINE

Food Safety
for the **Holidays**

Electrical Mishaps
Have No Place in
Holiday Memories

Spotlight
on Business:
Bluestem Nursery
and **Vineyard**

Bluestem Nursery
and Vineyard

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NORRIS ELECTRIC NEWS

"Dedicated to Serving You"

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POWER DISTRICT

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NORRIS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT CONTACT NUMBERS

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Beatrice: 402.223.4038

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Hours: M–F 8:00 AM–4:30 PM

Closed each day from 12:00 PM–12:30 PM

Fairbury: 402.729.3835

Area II

Roca: 402.423.3855

Toll Free: 1.800.743.3899

Hours: M–F 7:30 AM–4:30 PM

Crete: 402.826.2517



Electric Lineman Training **Scholarship**

Each year, Norris Public Power District offers a \$1,500 Electric Lineman Training scholarship to a student who has been accepted into the Utility Line Program at Northeast Community College and who meets the following requirements:

- **Graduated high school within the past two years**
- **Upper 50% of the graduating class**
- **Parents are customers of Norris Public Power District**

Students who are considering a career as a lineman should apply for admission to Northeast Community College as soon as possible, as their Utility Line Program fills up quickly. Northeast Community College handles the disbursement of the Norris Scholarship, which covers tuition only. The Norris Public Power Utility Lineman Scholarship Program helps to attract skilled, safety-conscious, highly motivated people seeking the opportunity to work in the electric industry. Scholarship applications for the 2011–2012 year should be completed and returned to Norris Public Power District by December 31, 2010. For a copy of the Electric Lineman Training Scholarship visit our website at www.norrisppd.com or contact Andrea Schafer in the Norris Public Relations Department at (402) 223-4038 or at aschafer@norrispower.com.

Outage Notification Service

The District realizes that during major outage events, customers may have a difficult time getting outage information. Recognizing this, the District currently uses the Norris District website, Facebook, Twitter, local radio stations and newspapers to inform customers on the status of outages and restoration efforts. In an effort to further our ability to communicate with our customers, the District recently upgraded our Outage Management System software which now has the capability to notify customers by email or text message with outage information. In the future, the District may use this feature for large scale outage events to keep customers abreast of restoration efforts and let them know specific information that pertains to their particular outage. Customers will only receive messages from the District that relate to their accounts that are affected by the outage. If you would like to receive email or text messages, please email us at comments@norrispower.com with your email address or cell phone number or complete the form below and mail it to: **Norris Public Power District, P.O. Box 399, Beatrice, NE 68310.**

Account Name _____ Date _____

Account Number(s) _____

Yes, I would like to receive outage email messages from Norris Public Power District.

Email Address _____

Yes, I would like to receive outage text messages from Norris Public Power District.

Cell Phone Number _____

Cell Phone Provider _____
(AT&T, US Cellular, Verizon, etc.)

Kevin Pollard, P.E.
General Manager & CEO
Norris Public Power District



What's Behind the 2011 Rate Increase

As I reported to you in the last issue of the Norris News magazine, the District will be receiving a 10 percent wholesale rate increase from our power supplier, the Nebraska Public Power District. The Norris District is now in the process of setting your retail rates for 2011. The District's wholesale power supply costs account for more than two-thirds of the retail rates our customers pay. Therefore, the 10 percent wholesale increase from NPPD will result in approximately a 7 percent increase to our customers. Once again, this year the District is using our cost of service study to allocate expenses to each of our customer classes. These costs include not only power supply costs but also allocations of our plant equipment, and various operation and maintenance expenses to each customer class. Once these expenses and costs are allocated to each customer class, the District then sets the rate each customer class must pay. This process results in rates that are fair and reasonable across the broad spectrum of different customer classes that we serve.

Based upon our preliminary results of the cost allocation process, the District is projecting an 8.2 percent rate increase for its retail customers in 2011. The actual rate increase for each customer class may vary slightly from the 8.2 percent

level; again, based upon the results of the cost of service analysis.

Over the last five years, the Nebraska Public Power District has raised wholesale power rates a cumulative total of 44 percent. That 44 percent increase equates to nearly a 31 percent increase in retail rates to Norris customers. The Norris District will continue to monitor increases in wholesale power costs, and will relay those changes to our customers as soon as they are made available.

The Norris District has been and will continue to monitor our expenses and cost containment measures to lessen your future rate increases. We will try to defer major capital expenditures where possible, without jeopardizing system reliability, and will continue to maximize the efficient use of the District's staff and equipment. Hopefully the increases in our wholesale power supply costs will subside soon. In the meantime, we'll be maximizing our efforts to keep your retail rates as low as possible, without sacrificing our long-term goals of providing you with reliable, abundant and safe electrical energy.

The Norris District is proud to be your electric energy provider, and appreciates your business.

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18. I certify that the information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (39 USC 3685).

PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 2)



James Dukesherer
Grassroots Coordinator
Nebraska Rural Electric Association

Grassroots Initiative:

You Have the Power to **Make a Difference**



When the Nebraska Legislature convenes in January, the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) will begin its third year of the Grassroots Initiative. The Grassroots Initiative is an effort by the NREA to bring together the members of Nebraska’s rural electric public power districts and cooperatives to increase awareness of the issues we face and to increase communication between our elected officials and those they are elected to represent.

With a host of important issues ranging from cap-and-trade legislation to generation and energy efficiency mandates being discussed in Lincoln and Washington, D.C., Nebraska’s public power districts and cooperatives are turning to their consumer member-owners to help keep Nebraska’s electric rates affordable.

Unlike a well-funded media campaign, a grassroots movement mobilizes the individual, increases awareness of the issues and seeks to shape the political debate from the bottom up. Every consumer-owner in Nebraska has the opportunity to become active. You can start by joining the Our Energy, Our Future campaign at www.ourenergy.coop. By doing so, you will send an email to your members of Congress asking them to keep energy legislation fair, affordable and achievable for Nebraska’s electric ratepayers. In addition, joining this campaign will sign you up for the NREA Grassroots Initiative and will ensure you receive important email notices about legislation and issues concerning the electric industry in Nebraska.

With so much emphasis on individual participation, a grassroots movement is by no means easily organized. It can be difficult for each individual to understand the importance of their active participation. Collectively, however, a well-organized grassroots movement can be an incredibly powerful advocacy tool if a critical mass of participants is mobilized behind a shared message. Currently, more than 12,000 Nebraskans have signed up for the Our Energy, Our Future campaign. These individuals have done their part to send more than 3.7 million emails and postcards nationwide to Congress.

With such widespread participation, this campaign has played a vital role in shaping the energy policy debate occurring in Washington; but more must be done.

There has never been a more important time for rural electric consumers to become involved in shaping the legislation that will determine our future electric rates.

If we truly are to make a difference, however, we must each embrace our individual duties in this collective effort. A grassroots campaign is a continuous process, one that will take a persistent effort from everyone who participates. Once we do so, we will begin to see how an increased understanding of the issues, better relationships with elected leaders, and thousands of concerned ratepayers will truly make an impact.

“There has never been a more important time for rural electric consumers to become involved in **shaping the legislation** that will determine our future electric rates.”

Spotlight on Business

Bluestem Nursery and Vineyard

5895 West Sprague Road, Crete, NE 68333

The beginning

Bluestem Nursery and Vineyard got its start when Doctors Steven and Ameeta Martin decided to plant several varieties of grapes in the spring of 2006.

After another spring of planting, which swelled the crop to three acres, they made the decision to hire Gene Ackland and Ryan Friesen to tend to the vines and small nursery of trees sharing the land.

Since partnering with the Martins, Ackland and Friesen have grown the nursery and vineyard to nearly 40 acres – more than 10 times its original size. They estimate they've planted more than 2,000 new trees in their three years in the business.

This type of work isn't new to Ackland and Friesen. Each has extensive experience working for private landscapers for more than 30 years combined.

The vineyard remained a relatively quiet business until the summer of 2009 when they hosted an employee's wedding on the grounds. Word got out about the beautiful venue and interest snowballed from there. In 2010, a new wedding pavilion was constructed and multiple weddings have taken place on the grounds since.

The vineyard and wines

Bluestem vineyard currently has six grape varieties in various stages of development. Brianna, Traminette, New York 73 and Leon Millot are established producing varieties, and Marquette and Vignoles were just planted during the spring of 2010. Ackland



said they currently have 1,260 vines growing on the property.

When it comes time to harvest the grapes, everyone gets involved. Brothers, sisters, spouses and children all pitch in to hand-pick the fruit. Once the best grapes are plucked from the vines, they're loaded onto carts and taken to a winery where the wine making process is seen through to the finish. There, the grapes are crushed, fermented, moved to aging barrels and bottled after sitting for several months, developing the perfect flavor. Once the bottles are properly aged, they're taken back to Bluestem Vineyard and offered for sale. Bluestem sells their wines by the bottle or case online, by appointment and at wine tasting events held at the vineyard.



Ryan Friesen, Gene Ackland

The vineyard currently produces enough grapes for a limited edition of 1,800–2,000 bottles of wine each year.

Bluestem hosts wine tasting events that are open to the public from 4:00–9:00 PM every Friday night in the fall. Interested readers should check the Bluestem website or call for more information.

Bluestem also offers personalized wine bottles for weddings, special occasions and holiday gifts. They also provide services to help design the labels for those with little design experience.

The nursery and landscaping

Bluestem Tree Farm and Landscaping is a full service landscaping company offering both design and installation services. The nursery sells both young and mature trees, including many large evergreens which have become more difficult to find as of late. Bluestem Landscaping also provides landscape design, plant installation, design of water features, landscape lighting, grading, retaining walls, hardscapes, custom fire pits, patios, spring and fall cleanups and snow removal services.



Events and activities

In addition to selling wine and hosting wine tasting events on Fridays in August, September and October, Bluestem hosts weddings, wedding receptions, family reunions and a variety of corporate events. The grounds are impeccably landscaped, and the vineyard and pavilion give it a romantic Old World-meets-New World flavor. You can walk the trails between rows of thousands of trees and grapevines.

Ackland and Friesen said they rent the entire property for weddings. The grounds, in addition to the vineyard and nearly 40 acres of trees, include a wine tasting room; a fully-furnished house for wedding parties; a pavilion/stage for wedding

Bluestem Nursery and Vineyard features

Outdoor pavilion for ceremonies, concerts and outdoor presentations

Large 45' x 84' venue that seats 250 guests and has an outdoor/tent feel but is heated and air conditioned

Two-bedroom cottage with theatre Vineyard

Ample parking

Beer and Bluestem wine available

Personalized wine bottles available

Outdoor grill area

Large outdoor fire pit

Large back patio

Wedding green space

Stage area

Walking trails

ceremonies, concerts and open-air presentations; and an event building/ ballroom for receptions, banquets, corporate meetings and reunions.

5895 West Sprague Road
Crete, NE 68333
(Across from Bluestem Lake)

Phone: 402.817.TREE (8733)

Website: www.bluestemtreefarm.com

Wine Tasting Hours: Fridays through October, 4:00–9:00 PM

For pricing and availability of renting Bluestem Nursery and Vineyard for your next event, contact Aeloa at Aeloa@red9live.com

Feature a business

Do you know of a business that should be featured in the Norris News? Send an email to comments@norrispower.com with the name, contact information, and a short description of the business and you could see it spotlighted in a future issue!

Norris Receives **Safety Accreditation** from the Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program



*Mark VanSkiver, Area 1
Operations Supervisor/
Manager of Safety*

Norris Public Power District's mission is to provide electricity and related services to customers at competitive prices in the most efficient, reliable, and safest manner possible. Unlike the saying of "good, fast, cheap... pick any two", we do not believe neglecting any of the three principles of our mission is an option. Efficiency, reliability, and safety are at the forefront of all of the decisions made at the Norris District.

With the safety of the District's customers, employees, and the public in mind, the Norris District participates in programs offered by the Nebraska Safety Council, the National Safety Council, the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) to name a few. The Job Training & Safety Program offered by the NREA and the Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program offered by the NRECA were developed and are managed with rural electric utilities, like the Norris District, in mind.

The NREA is a private, non-profit trade association made up of 35 rural electric utilities serving the majority of rural Nebraska. The NREA's Job Training and Safety Program offers seminars, workshops, and other training opportunities to help keep the Norris District and its employees current on regulations, equipment and work techniques, as well as other industry-related topics.

The NRECA is a national service organization made up of over 900 consumer-owned cooperatives and public power districts. The NRECA's Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program is a peer-review safety and loss control evaluation designed to provide rural electric utilities with an analysis of the overall effectiveness of work practices, procedures and performance. Of the NRECA's 865 distribution systems, 530 are Safety Accredited.

There are six elements to the Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program evaluation. The

six components include completing a thorough application, an on-site observation of the District's facilities and crews, a statistical evaluation of three different safety performance metrics, and verifying/providing documentation proving the validity of answers provided in the application.

The Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program requires a system evaluation every three years. The Norris District began working on the application in January of 2010 and completed the application in March. The on-site observation was then scheduled for late September. Five volunteer observers spent a long day scrutinizing District-owned vehicles, facilities, job sites, etc. At that time, the Norris District was informed of its application and safety performance metric scores, and was asked to provide randomly selected verification documents. A few days later, after the on-site observation score was compiled and the verification documents were analyzed, the Norris District received notification that it was successful in obtaining Safety Accreditation. This year's successful completion of Safety Accreditation was the seventh time the Norris District obtained this recognition. If Cecil Ehlers of Deshler would please call the Area 1 – Hebron office, we will arrange to have a serviceman deliver your new clock radio.

While the Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program evaluation occurs every three years, the practices, processes, documentation, and culture required to participate successfully in the program require year-round diligence. Being Safety Accredited is more than a goal to strive for; it provides a tool for the Norris District to analyze its performance and better serve its customers by efficiently, reliably, and safely providing electricity.

Please join me in congratulating all of the Norris District employees for their Safety Accreditation recognition!



EnergyWiseSM Tip: Don't Invite Old Man Winter into Your Home!



energy tip

The weather outside might be frightful, but inside, you can still keep things delightful. This winter, save money and stay warm. Considering that nearly half the energy you use in the home goes towards keeping things comfortable, often there are huge energy-saving opportunities you may not have considered. Keep your energy bills low this winter by taking a whole-house approach to heating.



Seal it up!

- Weatherstrip and caulk windows. Check window frames for cracks and fill them with caulk that contains silicon. Putty-like "rope caulk" can help seal large cracks.
- Replace any broken window panes and repair any large holes in attics, crawlspaces or basements.
- Close the fireplace damper and seal the opening shut when not in use.
- Keep doors and windows closed as much as possible. That includes overhead doors on attached garages. Install foam insulation gaskets behind electric outlets and switch plate covers.
- Seal exposed ductwork. Sealing helps your heating system run more efficiently and also ensures that heated air gets to where it should go.



Check it Out!

- Check all exterior doors for air leaks. A one-eighth-inch gap around a door is equivalent to a 6-inch square hole in the side of your house and causes a lot of energy loss. Have someone stand on the other side of the door and shine a flashlight around the door's perimeter. If you can see light through the cracks, your door needs sealing.
- If you have a forced air furnace, inspect filters at the beginning of the heating season and monthly during the season. Clean or replace them if there is significant dust build up.
- Measure attic insulation. If it is less than 7 inches deep or is less than R-38, consider upgrading with spray-foam or batt insulation.
- Don't block radiators or heating vents with furniture or draperies.
- Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable when home.



Tune it up!

- Get your furnace inspected and tuned up by a heating professional.
- Install a programmable thermostat and set it to lower the temperature at night and whenever the house is unoccupied. Lowering your thermostat by 10 degrees at night and unoccupied times can reduce heating bills by 10 to 20 percent. Remember, a programmable thermostat only saves energy when it is programmed!
- Get a humidifier to add moisture to the air. Moist air feels warmer, so a humidifier can help you feel comfortable even though your thermostat is set at a lower temperature.



Open it Up!

- During the heating season, keep the draperies and shades on south-facing windows open during the day to allow sunlight to enter the home and closed at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.

Doing these tasks now will help ensure Old Man Winter does not scrooge you this heating season. Not only will you help keep the heat inside your home, you will feel more comfortable, too. Before you know it, spring will be just around the corner! If Wade Neth of Waverly would please call the Area 2 – Roca office, we will arrange to have a serviceman deliver your Kill-A-Watt device.

The holiday season is just around the corner, and if you're in charge of meal preparation it's important to refresh your memory on proper food safety procedures. Once you have planned your menu, follow these helpful tips to decrease the risk of cross contamination and keep your family safe during the holidays!

Food Safety for Holiday Meals

Preparing the Kitchen

Before preparing the meal and its components, it is important to properly cleanse, sanitize and prepare work surfaces and materials.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

- Use hot water and soap to clean all food prep materials and serving dishes.
- Use a diluted bleach solution – one tablespoon unscented liquid bleach (no more) to one gallon of water – to clean food prep surfaces. Let the solution stand for a few minutes, then blot dry with paper towels.
- Have paper towels handy for easy clean-up (if you use cloth towels, wash them frequently in your washing machine using hot water).

Other Preparation

- Make sure there's enough space on the bottom shelf of your refrigerator for the turkey and other raw foods.
- Check the refrigerator temperature – it should be 40 degrees or below.
- Rinse all fresh fruits and vegetables under running tap water (including those with skins and rinds).

- Sharpen knives (or take them to a professional).
- Anyone handling food should wash their hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds, before and after handling food.

Internal Cooking Temperatures

Checking internal temperature on prepared foods is vital to ensuring food safety. Bacteria exist everywhere and grow more rapidly when provided with food, favorable temperatures and moisture. Bacteria grow most rapidly in the "Danger Zone" of 40°F–140°F, which is why the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline recommends never leaving food out of refrigeration for more than two hours.

Various government agencies and food safety organizations stress the importance of checking food temperatures before serving. Using a food thermometer is the only reliable way to ensure safety and to determine "doneness" of meat, poultry and egg products. Cooking these foods to a safe minimum internal temperature as measured with a food thermometer will destroy any harmful microorganisms.¹ In order to get an accurate reading, review the thermometer's manufacturer instructions and be sure to

place the thermometer in the thickest part of the food (away from bones, fat and gristle). Refer to the chart for safe minimum internal temperatures for dishes involving meat and eggs.



Using a food thermometer is the **only reliable way** to ensure safety and to determine “doneness” of meat, poultry and egg products.

Product	Degree F
---------	----------

Eggs and Egg Dishes

Eggs and egg dishes	Cook until firm
Egg dishes	160
Egg sauces and custards	160

Ground Meat and Meat Mixtures

Turkey or chicken	165
Beef, veal, lamb, pork	160

Fresh Beef, Veal or Lamb

Medium rare	145
Medium	160
Well done	170

Fresh Pork

Medium rare	160
Well done	170

Ham

Fresh (raw)	160
Fully-cooked (reheat)	140

Roast Beef

Commercially-cooked and ready-to-eat	140
--------------------------------------	-----

Poultry

All poultry products	165
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Stuffing

Cooked alone or in bird	165
-------------------------	-----

Sauces, Soups, Gravies, Marinades

Used w/raw meat, poultry or fish	Bring to a boil
----------------------------------	-----------------

Seafood

Fin fish	Cook until opaque & flakes easily w/fork
Shrimp, lobster, crab	Should turn red & flesh should be pearly opaque
Clams, mussels, oysters	Cook until shells open

Leftovers	165
------------------	------------

*Food Safety and Inspection Service, www.fsis.usda.gov

Safety Shopping List

CLEAN

- Unscented liquid bleach or sanitizing spray
- Clean sponges
- Clean towels
- Paper towels
- Dish soap
- Hand soap
- Brush for cleaning fruits and vegetables under running water

SEPARATE

- Two clean cutting boards – one for meat, poultry and seafood; one for fruits and vegetables
- Large rimmed baking sheet to put under turkey in refrigerator

COOK

- Accurate food thermometer
- Aluminum foil to tent resting turkey

CHILL

- Appliance thermometers: one for refrigerator, one for freezer
- Kitchen timer (to set as reminder to put food in the refrigerator)
- Shallow containers with lids for leftovers
- Food labels for containers
- Plastic wrap and storage bags

Resources:

¹ <http://www.holidayfoodsafety.org/>

USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline,
1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854)

Food Safety Inspection Service,
www.fsis.usda.gov

Electrical mishaps have no place in *holiday memories*

For millions of people every year, the holiday season comes with traditions of festive lights and decorations, extraordinary foods and lavish parties. Unfortunately, time-honored traditions can easily end in tragedy if precautions are not taken.

The two examples below are similar, but their outcomes are different. It was almost Christmas; time to decorate the evergreens outside their Indiana homes with holiday lights. Nearby were overhead utility lines carrying high voltage. 37-year-old Shawn Miller lost part of a limb and required over 30 surgeries to repair his severe electrical burns. 42-year-old Bryan Davis was buried by his family.



Both the death of Davis and the injury to Miller were tragic revelations of the powerful force of electricity that flows through overhead utility lines. When these mishaps come during the holiday season, the stinging memories are even more painful for the family.

Miller's mother, Maria Worth, found her son on the ground with wisps of smoke coming from his body. Miller was unconscious and badly burned. He had been hanging holiday lights in the trees that lined her yard. As he tossed the lights up into the trees, 7,200 volts of electricity entered his body, traveling from the overhead power lines through his strand of lights.

"Power lines were the last thing on my mind that day," says Miller. "I was just hanging Christmas lights at my Mom's house like I do every year,

only this time, I was decorating a new area, the trees that lined the front of the yard."

Miller suffered 27 exit wounds, the loss of his left hand and a finger on his right hand, but his survival was miraculous.

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission says

12,500 people every year seek emergency room treatment because of holiday lights and electrified ornaments that either severely shock or burn them. Some are fatal.

Safe Electricity and other organizations warn against the use of holiday lights near any type of



Shawn Miller

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission says 12,500 people every year **seek emergency room** treatment because of holiday lights...

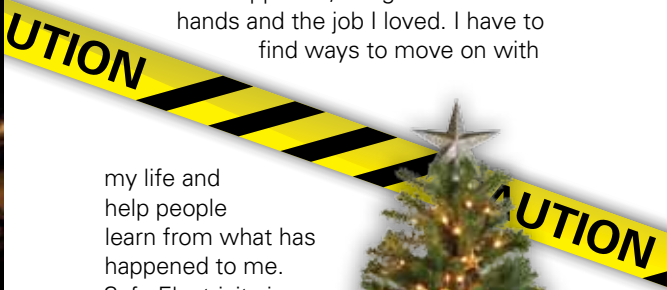
utility installation. The strong advice is to stay away from utility lines or feeder lines that connect the house to the power lines. Before stringing outdoor lights, check for overhead power lines.

"After something life-changing happens, you become more interested and learn much more," Miller said. "Had I known more before this happened, I might still have two hands and the job I loved. I have to find ways to move on with

my life and help people learn from what has happened to me. Safe Electricity is helping me help others."

Miller and Safe Electricity urge everyone to follow these guidelines while decorating for the holiday season:

- Never throw holiday lights or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep ladders, equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from all power lines.
- Use only lights that have been safety tested and have the UL label.
- Before use, check each light string for broken sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs. Replace damaged strings. Always unplug light strings while replacing bulbs.
- Outdoors, use only lights, cords, animated displays and decorations rated for outdoor use. Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with GFCIs. Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets are not equipped with them.
- Do not staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords, or attach cords to utility poles.
- Don't string together more than three standard-size sets of lights.
- Make sure extension cords are in good condition, are UL-approved and rated to carry the electrical load you will connect to them.
- Match plugs with outlets. Don't force a 3-pronged plug into a 2-pronged outlet or extension cord.
- Do not overload outlets. Use surge protector strips if multiple outlets are needed.
- Keep electric cords away from high-traffic areas, and don't run them through doorways, or hide them under rugs or carpets.
- Don't let children or pets play with light strings or electrical decorations.
- Place fresh-cut trees away from heat sources, such as heat registers, fireplaces, radiators and televisions; and water frequently.
- Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your home.





2010 Operation ROUND UP 4th Quarter Results

In 2001, Norris Public Power District launched the "Operation Round Up" program. Operation Round Up is a voluntary program in which customers select to have their monthly electric bills "rounded up" to the next highest dollar. The additional cents are placed in the Norris Power Goodwill Fund. This fund is administered by a board of directors made up of one Norris customer from each of the five counties we serve. The board meets quarterly to consider requests and make disbursements. Since its inception, Operation Round Up has granted over \$419,000 to organizations within our five county service territory.



Operation Round Up granted the Plymouth Community Improvement Association \$1,500 in January 2010 for the construction of two welcome signs.

Award Amount	Organization/Agency	Purpose
\$200	Habitat for Humanity of Gage County	Handicapped-accessible home
\$250	Hickman Rural Volunteer Fire Department	Fire department sign
\$250	Gage County Agriculture Society	School exhibit display
\$300	Preschool Learning Center, Fairbury	Learn & Play rug, shelving, art center
\$450	Beatrice High School Cheerleaders	Portable sound system
\$500	Tri County Parent-Teacher Organization	Missoula Children's Theatre
\$500	Meridian Partners in Education	Library tables, chairs & bookcases
\$500	Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Denton	Storage shed
\$895	Meridian Girls Softball Association	Batting cage
\$1,000	Diller Rural Fire Protection	Lockers
\$1,000	Hubbell Volunteer Fire Department	Pagers
\$1,000	Beatrice Fine Arts Association	New risers
\$1,000	Friends of the Gage County Courthouse, Inc	Furnishings & fixtures
\$1,200	Parkview Haven Nursing Home, Deshler	Relocate main nurses' desk
\$1,200	Carleton Community Building Committee	Permanent display cases
\$1,200	Blue Valley Nursing Home, Hebron	Player piano
\$1,500	Fairbury High School Music & Art Booster Club	Music equipment
\$1,500	Zion Lutheran School Parent/Teacher League, Tobias	Computer
\$1,500	Raymond Woman's Club	Replace furnace

Total Amount Awarded for 4th Quarter = \$15,945

If your organization has received a donation from Operation Round Up funds, send us a photo showing how you've benefitted and we'll feature it in an upcoming issue of the Norris News!

COOK of the Month—Therese Sisler

Holmesville, NE



Therese was born and raised in Concordia, Kansas. As her folks would tell you, “she grew up with a shotgun in one hand and fishing pole in the other.” Therese and her family truly lived off of the land. They hunted rabbits, pheasants, and other wild game, as well as fished during the summer months, to provide meat for the family. They also had a garden that provided all their vegetables, which were canned so they could be served year round. To this day, Therese still enjoys hunting, fishing and gardening.

Therese’s love of cooking came from her father, who served as a cook in the United States Army during World War II. He never used a recipe and taught Therese the art of cooking at a very young age. Therese continues to prepare meals and desserts without consulting a recipe.

When Therese isn’t getting creative in the kitchen, she enjoys creating artwork and jewelry out of pheasant feathers. She has a genuine love and appreciation for the beauty these feathers exhibit, and is hoping to someday become a Grassroots Art Center showcase artist.

Therese has shared three of her favorite dishes for your cooking enjoyment. As she seldom uses recipes, this is the first time she’s measured and written down the ingredients for others.

Chocolate Chip Cookies

2/3 cup margarine
2/3 cup Crisco shortening
1 cup white sugar
1 cup light brown sugar
2 eggs
2 tsp vanilla
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt
3 1/3 cups all-purpose white flour
12 oz. bag of chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Blend margarine and shortening together. Add sugars and mix well. Add eggs and vanilla. Mix well. Sift dry ingredients and add to base mixture.

Lastly, add chocolate chips. Roll into 1 1/4” balls and place on ungreased cookie sheet. Slightly flatten each ball with palm of hand.

Bake for 10–12 minutes until light brown around edges.

Cool slightly before moving cookies to a cooling rack (Air Bake cookie sheets work best with this recipe).

Substitute white chocolate chips for chocolate chips and add 1 cup chopped macadamia nuts for a rich white chocolate chip-macadamia nut cookie.

Shrimp-Bacon Bites

1 can tiny shrimp – drained
1/2 cup chili sauce
1/8 tsp garlic powder
10–12 slices of bacon

Mix chili sauce and garlic powder. Pour over shrimp and mix gently. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, cut bacon in half and partially cook. Drain off grease. Let cool.

Place a tsp of shrimp mixture in middle of each partially cooked piece of bacon. Fold bacon up & over and secure with a toothpick.

Set oven temperature to broil. Place bites on foil lined cookie sheet and broil 2” to 3” from heat until bacon is crisp. Watch closely as this only takes a few minutes.

Serve warm.

Pheasant Deluxe

1 cooked pheasant, de-boned
3 eggs – beaten
2 1/2 cup broth
(from cooking pheasant)
1 can cream of mushroom soup
1/2 medium onion – chopped
4 cups crushed Ritz crackers
1/2 tsp pepper
1 1/2 cups chopped celery
1 can cheddar cheese soup

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Mix all ingredients and place in 9 X 13 baking dish.

Bake for 1 hour.

Chicken or turkey may be substituted for pheasant.

Feature a COOK of the Month

If you know of someone in our area you would like to see featured as the Cook of the Month, please send an email to comments@norrispower.com or call our Beatrice office at 402.223.4038.

Community Events Calendar

For the most current list of community events, visit www.norrisppd.com and look for the Community Events Calendar on the right side of your screen.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Annual Turkey/Ham Dinner

Cortland American Legion, Spobow Post 253
Cortland Community Center
11:00 AM–1:30 PM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Mixed Stag – All You Can Eat Fish Fry & Ham

Wymore American Legion
Begins at 5:30 PM
\$8 per person

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Soup and Dessert Supper

Wymore Community Center
5:00 PM–7:00 PM
Serving 3 kinds of soup and desserts
All proceeds go to Southern Music Boosters

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Simple Grace Concert

Princeton Countryside Church
Dessert following concert
7:00 PM, Freewill offering
For more information, visit:
www.princetonchurch.net
or call 402.798.7318



Norris Public Power District Automatic Telephone Dialing System Courtesy Call Information

Effective July 12, 2010, Norris Public Power District will perform courtesy calls to customers regarding account information at the direction of the customer. Courtesy calls may be made for various reasons, including when an account becomes past due or as a reminder that a customer needs to read their meter. The courtesy calls will be made by an automated dialing device to the cellular or landline phone number provided by the customer, if written consent is granted by the customer. Customers may provide written consent by completing this form and returning to a Norris office. If a customer does not provide written consent, the courtesy calls will not be made. Customers may rescind their courtesy call consent in the future by contacting one of the Norris offices.



Norris Public Power District Automatic Telephone Dialing System Written Consent Form

_____ (customer/organization) and _____ (spouse/co-resident/business owner) hereby give express written consent to the Norris Public Power District or its assigns to be contacted via a phone call for courtesy calls regarding the account listed. I understand courtesy calls may be made for various reasons, including if my account becomes past due or as a reminder that I need to read my meter. I understand these courtesy calls will be made by an automated dialing device to the cellular or landline phone number listed herein or as later updated.

Account Name

Account Number

Telephone Number

Signature

Date

Please return completed form to:
Norris Public Power District,
P.O. Box 399, Beatrice, NE 68310