

NEWS

March 2012

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Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

Plan to attend the 2012 Annual Meeting

All members welcome! Bring the kids!

The Cooperative's Annual Meeting is planned for Tuesday, April 10 at the Hutchinson Event Center.

A meal of shredded beef sandwiches and the fixings will be served from 4-6 p.m. The business meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. There will be attendance prizes and prize drawings for the kids as well as adults. Check out some of the new technologies available from the Cooperative, visit our display booths, get your blood pressure checked, and stay for the meeting. Grand prize is a \$300 electric bill credit.

Mark your calendars for April 10th



Candidates vie for director seats

The Nominating Committee met February 2 and February 16 to select the final candidates for director elections in Districts 4, 5, and 6. The Nominating Committee is required to select two candidates to be on the ballot for each district. Additional candidates are only added to the ballot when a member presents a petition to the Cooperative that is signed by at least 20 members from their district.

The persons selected by the Nominating Committee for this year's election are:

- District 4: Doug Kirtz and Doug Breikreutz
 - District 5: Allan Duesterhoeft and Edward C. Markgraf
 - District 6: Lester Ranzau and Wayne Grams
- See director profiles on page 8.

Satisfaction survey will be in March bill

Please complete and return by April 15.

The Cooperative would really like to know how satisfied you are with your electric service. Every few years we send a satisfaction survey to our members to request their opinion. We want your feedback. This is your chance to let us know how you feel about your Cooperative.

All MCPA members will receive a survey in their electric bill in mid-March. Please fill out the survey form. Seal it and put it in the U.S. mail. It is a postage-paid mailer and will go right to the company tabulating the surveys for us.

If you put your name and phone number in the space provided and return your survey by April 15, you will be entered in the drawing for a \$100 electric bill credit.

This survey provides important information to the Cooperative. It shows us how satisfied you are with your rates and service

compared to previous years. It shows us where improvement may be needed. It gives you an opportunity to tell us what additional services you would like to see us offer. It helps us meet your needs better. So, please take a few moments and complete your survey in March.

2012 Co-op Member Survey

INSTRUCTIONS
Use pencil or blue/black pen and fill ovals completely.
Correct Mark Incorrect Mark

McLeod COOPERATIVE POWER

We would like to know how satisfied you are with your electric service. Please fill out this survey to give us your opinion.

Electric Service
 Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Poor
 Very Poor

Board & Management
 Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Poor
 Very Poor

Comments:
 NAME: ()
 PHONE: ()

Thank you for your valuable input!
To return your completed survey, remove the adhesive strip and fold so that the postage-paid return information is on the outside. Then simply drop in the mail.

McLeod Cooperative Power office will be closed on Good Friday, April 6

The Cooperative has a 24-hour payment drop box at the entry to the Glencoe office. Members may drop off electric payments any time. Payments will be processed the next business day.

In case of emergency or outage, members may call 1-800-927-5685 anytime 24 hours a day.



Nominating Committee prepared slate of director candidates for 2012



Standing L to R: Ron Elbert, Gary Burdorf, Morris Rettman, LeRoy Karg, and Bill Rosenwald. Seated L to R: Wilbert Becker, Reinhold Runke, Thomas Koeberl, and Brad Edgar.

Members of the Nominating Committee from Districts 4, 5, and 6 met on February 2 and 16 to select candidates to run for director elections in their respective districts. Serving on this year's nominating committee were: District 4: Brad Edgar of Hector, Thomas Koeberl of Hector, and Reinhold Runke of

Buffalo Lake. District 5: Wilbert Becker of Brownton, LeRoy Karg of Hutchinson and Morris Rettman of Hutchinson. District 6: Gary Burdorf of Arlington, Ronald Elbert of Gaylord, and Bill Rosenwald of Glencoe.

A Matter of PRINCIPLES

You might be surprised by the number of co-ops around you. Co-ops have been formed to sell produce and electricity, offer financial and banking services, provide housing and health care, and much more.

So where did the bright idea for co-ops come from? It's a matter of principles (seven, to be exact). The modern movement traces its roots to a store started by weavers in the town of Rochdale (pronounced Rotchdale) in northern England in 1844. The group was guided by a set of principles drawn up by one of its members, Charles Howarth. When introduced into the U.S. by the National Grange in 1874, these "Rochdale Principles" fueled a cooperative explosion.

Although stated in many ways, the Rochdale Principles require that a cooperative must be open for anyone to join. Every member retains one voice, one vote. Electric co-ops hold member business meetings annually, allowing members to elect fellow consumers to guide the co-op and have a say in how their utility is run.

There also have to be real member benefits. For example, members of electric co-ops often get money back (called capital credits or patronage refunds) when the co-op's in good financial shape. More than \$9.5 billion has been returned to members by electric co-ops since 1988 — nothing to sneeze at.



Education remains another big focus. Electric co-ops provide safety information in schools, share ideas on how to make your home more energy efficient to keep electric bills affordable, and make sure elected officials and opinion leaders know about the co-op business model. Because there is strength in numbers, co-ops tend to stick together when tackling regional and national issues.

Perhaps most important of all, co-ops are independent and community-focused, not tied to the purse strings of far-flung investors. Co-ops help drive local economic development, fund scholarships, support local charities, and work to make life better in the areas they serve — the heart of the cooperative difference.

Learn more about cooperatives and the principles that define them at www.go.coop.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1

Oria Brinkmeier, *Lester Prairie*

District 2

Dale Peters, Secretary-Treasurer
Brownton

District 3

Roger Karstens, *Hutchinson*

District 4

Doug Kirtz, Vice President
Hector

District 5

Allan Duesterhoeft, *Hutchinson*

District 6

Lester Ranzau
Glencoe

District 7

Bill Polchow, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer
Silver Lake

District 8

Keith Peterson, *Hector*

District 9

Gerald Roepke, President
New Germany

MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER NEWS

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General Manager: Kris Ingenthron
Editor: Sue Pawelk

The *McLeod Cooperative Power News* is the official member publication of McLeod Coop Power Association and focuses

on our members, programs and events.
All member story ideas and comments are welcome.
Send to Sue Pawelk at the address above.

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

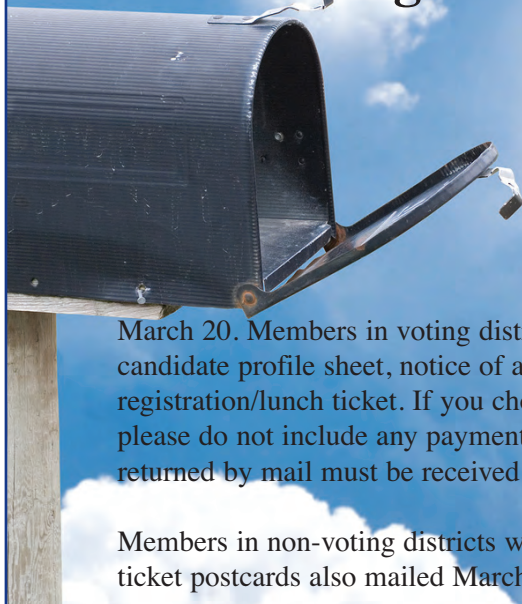
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1-800-494-6272

24-hour outage: 1-800-927-5685
Fax: 320-864-4850

Web site: www.mcleodcoop.com

Gopher State One Call 1-800-252-1166

Ballots and registration tickets to be mailed March 20



Members residing in Districts 4, 5, & 6 will receive a ballot for the director election in their district. They will be mailed on

March 20. Members in voting districts will also receive a director candidate profile sheet, notice of annual meeting, and a registration/lunch ticket. If you choose to return your ballot by mail please do not include any payments in your voting envelope. Ballots returned by mail must be received on or before April 10, 2012.

Members in non-voting districts will have their registration/lunch ticket postcards also mailed March 20.

Please follow instructions when completing your ballot.

If you reside in Districts 4,5, or 6 and receive a director election ballot, please follow the instructions on the ballot and envelopes.

After voting, seal your ballot in the small envelope. Then place it in the larger return envelope. Your name on a return address sticker will be in the upper left corner. Do not black out your name or your ballot cannot be counted. The Cooperative must track and record the

names of members who have returned ballots, making sure only one per voting member is received. So your name must be visible on the return address sticker.

Only the Nominating Committee is authorized to open the inside envelope containing the ballot. They open and count the ballots the day of the Annual Meeting.

Thank you for your cooperation.

McLeod Cooperative Power Association ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE Hutchinson Event Center — April 10, 2012

Registration Begins at Hutchinson Event Center	4:00 p.m.
Meal served to members	4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Called to Order	6:30 p.m.
Invocation	Bill Polchow, Director
Pledge of Allegiance	All
Welcome.....	Kris Ingenthron, General Manager
Establish a Quorum	Dale Peters, Sec./Treas.
Reading of Notice of Meeting	Dale Peters, Sec./Treas.
Approval of Minutes of 2011 Annual Meeting	Dale Peters, Sec./Treas.
Introduction of Director Candidates Districts 4, 5, & 6	Gerald Roepke, President
Introduction of Directors, District 1-3 and 7-9	Gerald Roepke, President
Financial Report	Jan Sanderson, Financial Services Manager
Closing of Ballots	Gerald Roepke, President
President's Report	Gerald Roepke, President
Manager's Report	Kris Ingenthron, General Manager
Great River Energy Report.....	Lester Ranzau, GRE Director
Washington D.C. Youth Tour Report.....	Mandy Schlauderaff
Announcement of Operation Round Up Recipients.....	
.....	Operation Round Up Trust Board
Introduction of Nominating Committee	Gerald Roepke, President
Election Report.....	Nominating Committee Chairman
Unfinished Business	Gerald Roepke, President
New Business	Gerald Roepke, President
Adjournment	
Drawing for Attendance Prizes and Grand Prize	Sue Pawelk

McLeod Cooperative Power Association, 1231 Ford Avenue, P.O. Box 70,
Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

VIASAT

The next generation of broadband via satellite, and it's FAST



exedeSM
by ViaSat

ViaSat-1, the highest capacity satellite in the world, powers the next generation of satellite broadband.

Exede broadband service brings together the highest capacity satellite in the world, state-of-the-art equipment and breakthrough web acceleration technology. Our new satellite, ViaSat-1, represents the most significant capacity leap in the history of satellite technology. We've also built a brand new, state-of-the-art network here on the ground. The equipment in your home is all new, too, including a brand new modem with built-in web acceleration technology. All of this is optimized to bring you super fast speed and high-quality streaming. All of our new plans have the same great speed. Just choose how much bandwidth you need each month.

High Speed internet for any one, any where!

Speed	12 Mbps download 3 Mbps upload	12 Mbps download 3 Mbps upload
Customer	Light Internet Users 10 GB/month	Moderate Internet Users 15 GB/month
Price	\$49.99 per mo.	\$79.99 per mo.

All plans require 24-month commitment. One time set-up fee of approximately \$140 and \$6.95/month protection plan. Speeds are "up to" and not guaranteed. Actual speed will vary.

No matter which Exede plan you choose, it comes with the fastest speed available in your area. Now you can choose the plan that's right for you based on how much you use the Internet. Here's how it works: Everything you do online involves the transfer of data. Some online activities, like streaming video and downloading movies or software, require a lot of data, while other activities like email and web browsing use much less. The more you do online, the larger your data plan should be. Think what you could do with the new, super fast broadband service from Exede.

Exceptional speed allows you to:

- Share more photos remarkably fast

- Video chat with less jitter
- Send and receive files quickly
- Download and stream music
- Experience exceptionally fast web browsing and email

Our breakthrough web acceleration technology makes your web browsing faster.

To make your web browsing even snappier, we've included our exclusive web acceleration technology in every Exede modem. It's designed to be intelligent, combining multiple Internet requests and fetching content faster than your browser to speed up the loading of web pages. The result is a superior browsing experience.

The Magical Value of Heat Pump Systems



Ductless or “mini-split” heat pumps are ideal for room additions where adding duct work may not be possible.

Source: GE



Heat pump advancements continue to boost the technology’s efficiency. Two-speed compressors, like the design used by ClimateMaster’s Tranquility 27® geothermal heat pump, allow units to engage a second speed, or stage, on colder or warmer days when additional heating or cooling is needed. The rest of the time—90 percent of the year, according to ClimateMaster—the system operates at the first, more energy-efficient speed. Source: ClimateMaster

By Megan McKoy-Noe

Magicians may pull rabbits out of hats, but many homeowners perform captivating acts of their own by taking natural heat and cooling power from air and earth and transforming it into conditioned comfort. Yet this act doesn’t involve any sleight of hand trickery: it simply requires a heat pump.

Heat pumps move heat into residences during winter and out of them in summer, trimming overall home heating and cooling costs by as much as 40 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). In a national study, the Cooperative Research Network (CRN), a division of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association that monitors, evaluates, and applies energy technologies, revealed 11 percent of homes use a heat pump as their primary heating/cooling system. For all-electric homes this jumps to 29 percent.

Have questions about what can work for you? Read on and then call your Cooperative to get specific questions answered.

Geothermal

Outside temperatures may vary, but the earth’s temperature remains steady year-round and can be harnessed to make homes comfortable. According to the DOE, geothermal heat pumps offer energy savings between 30 percent and 60 percent annually when compared to conventional baseboard or radiant heating systems, and are typically the most efficient heat pump option.

Geothermal heat pumps move a liquid or water through pipes buried in the ground, then into a home. Also called ground-source heat pumps, there are two types of units: a groundwater (open-loop) system uses well or pond water, while an earth-coupled (closed-loop) model uses a water and antifreeze solution. Systems can be

installed horizontally or vertically, depending on available space.

Geothermal efficiency depends on climate, soil and water conditions, and landscaping. For example, soil that transfers heat easily requires less piping. Rocky terrain may require a vertical loop system instead of a more economical horizontal loop system. When buying a geothermal system, compare two elements: coefficient of performance (COP) for heating, and the energy efficiency ratio (EER) for cooling. ENERGY STAR-qualified models must provide a rating of at least 2.8 COP and 13 EER.

Air-Source

Air-source heat pumps use a system of coils to evaporate a refrigerant and, with it, draw heat away from a home, cooling the air. In winter the magic reverses with the flip of a valve, and your home heats.

The system is up to 300 percent efficient, but it is not perfect. Air-source heat pumps often need supplemental heat in sub-zero temperatures. A back-up system of electric resistance coils kicks-in when air temperatures dip below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, but this method of heating—similar to a toaster—isn’t energy efficient, costing more to operate than traditional heating systems. Some air-source heat pump systems, notably reverse cycle chillers (RCC), offer heating alternatives to keep homes efficiently comfortable at lower temperatures—they store heat in an insulated tank of water. Other back-up heating sources include gas-fired backup furnaces or electric storage heating systems, which heat during the night when electricity is cheaper, then release their heat as needed 24 hours a day. Even with a back-up source of heat, as part of a dual fuel system, an air source heat pump can save you hundreds of dollars each year because it qualifies for a half-price electric rate. Call your Co-op for details.

When shopping for an air-source heat pump, compare the seasonal energy efficiency rating (SEER) for cooling prowess, and heating seasonal performance factor (HSPF) for compressor and heating element strength. ENERGY STAR models guarantee a SEER of 12 or more and a HSPF of 7 or more. For warmer climates, SEER is more important than HSPF; in colder climates find a system with a high HSPF.

Ductless/Mini-Split

In a twist of a classic magic trick, ductwork funneling conditioned air to different rooms can cause some air to “disappear”—wasting from 15 percent to 20 percent of the energy used to heat or cool the air. While sealing air ducts and proper insulation helps, another option is to bypass ducts with a ductless version of an air-source heat pump (DHP), also called a “mini-split” heat pump.

Small and versatile, ductless heat pumps have two main parts: an outdoor compressor or condenser and one or more indoor air-handling units. These components are linked by a cable (refrigerant line). Many systems offer up to four indoor units to condition different rooms, and some systems come with wireless remotes or wall-mounted control units.

According to the CRN, these devices use an estimated 50 percent to 60 percent less energy than traditional forms of heating. DHPs are ideal for room additions where duct work may not be possible, or for homes with “non-ducted” air conditioning (i.e. window units). Indoor models can be mounted in the ceiling, hung on the wall, or placed on the floor. DHPs are costly—30 percent more expensive than traditional central air systems (not including ductwork). Installation can also be tricky—if a system is too big for the space, energy will be wasted and the correct temperature may not be reached. It is crucial that you choose a contractor that has met rigorous requirements through the HVAC/R Education

qualifications and testing. Call your Co-op for details or visit the Co-op’s website for a list of qualified local contractors.

Innovation Boosts Efficiency

Heat pump technology isn’t new—geothermal has been used since the 1940s—but innovations are improving performance and efficiency. Dual-source heat pumps combine geothermal systems and air-source technologies. Though not as efficient as true geothermal systems, the device costs less than putting in a geothermal system and avoids some of air-source’s pitfalls during cold weather.

Another technology advancement, two-speed compressors condition the desired amount of air (heating or cooling capacity) needed at different times—standard compressors only operate at full capacity. Having this option reduces compressor wear and saves energy. With all heat pumps, compressor design further enhances performance—a scroll compressor offers quieter operation and provides 10 to 15 degrees Fahrenheit of warmer air in heating mode when compared to systems with traditional piston-driven compressors. Some heat pumps offer variable-speed or dual-speed motors for fans (indoor and outdoor) which minimizes drafts and keeps air flowing at a comfortable rate.

Saving on Systems

Although heat pumps are more expensive than traditional air conditioning, rebates and tax credits can help cut the cost. A federal tax credit equal to 30 percent of the cost for materials and installation, with no limit on total project expenses, applies to geothermal heat pumps through Dec. 31, 2016. A list of requirements can be found at www.energystar.gov/taxcredits. Your Co-op also has rebates for certain installations done by a Qualified Installer. Call for details.

Megan McKoy-Noe writes on energy efficiency issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Operating and Maintaining Your Heat Pump

Like all heating and cooling systems, proper maintenance remains the key to efficient heat pump operation. The difference in electric use between a well-maintained heat pump and a severely neglected one ranges from 10 percent to 25 percent!

Remember not to set back a heat pump's thermostat if it causes any backup heating system to kick on; those systems are usually more expensive to operate. Continuous indoor fan operation can also hurt heat pump performance unless you use a high-efficiency, variable-speed fan motor. Operate your heat pump with the "auto" fan setting on your thermostat.

Clean or change filters once a month or as needed, and maintain the system according to manufacturer's instructions. Dirty filters, coils, and fans reduce airflow, which will decrease system performance and possibly damage the compressor. Clean outdoor coils whenever they appear dirty; occasionally, turn off power to the fan and clean it; remove vegetation and clutter from around the outdoor unit. Clean the supply and return registers within your home, and straighten their fins if bent.

You should also have a professional technician

service your heat pump at least every year. The technician should do the following:

- Inspect ducts, filters, blower, and indoor coils for dirt and other obstructions
- Diagnose and seal duct leakage
- Verify adequate airflow by measurement
- Verify correct refrigerant charge by measurement
- Check for refrigerant leaks
- Inspect electric terminals and, if necessary, clean and tighten connections, and apply non-conductive coating
- Lubricate motors and inspect belts for tightness and wear
- Verify correct electric control, making sure that heating is locked out when the thermostat calls for cooling and vice versa
- Verify correct thermostat operation.



To learn more about heat pumps, visit www.energysavers.gov.

Cooperative members will have an opportunity to get a rebate when they have their air source heat pump professionally maintained. Look for that program coming this spring. It's a great opportunity to get the very most out of your heat pump system.

INDUSTRY

News

Co-ops urge members to vote

Electric cooperatives are urging their consumer-members to get involved in politics. With presidential primaries and caucuses already under way, and 468 congressional races this year, the 42 million people served by co-ops represent a lot of votes. "Every vote is important and we want to make sure the voice of electric cooperatives is heard," said NRECA CEO Glenn English. "Engaging co-op member-owners in the political process is essential if we're to maintain a competitive edge in the legislative arena."

In support of that goal, NRECA has launched a new Web portal filled with information on voter registration, presidential primary and caucus dates and congressional primary dates. [America's Electric Cooperatives Vote 2012](#) includes interactive links and drop down menus providing voter information for all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

"We want to do all we can to make sure co-op members vote on Election Day," said Randy Dwyer, NRECA's director of grassroots advocacy. "That's the best way to ensure that the voices of electric cooperatives are heard, not only during the election cycle, but in the years ahead."

-Electric Co-op Today

Reaching new heights of safety

It is vital that all consumers understand the importance of electrical safety at home, where electric potential is measured in hundreds of volts and can cause serious injury. On the electric grid where electric currents can be more than 1,000 times as powerful, safety can be a matter of life and death. Great River Energy goes to any length to ensure there are safeguards in place that protect its employees and members. Equally important is Great River Energy's culture of safety. Every employee is empowered to report safety concerns with the expectation that they will be acted upon. That culture of safety led to the safest year in the history of the cooperative in 2011.

Great River Energy achieved all-time safety records in several industry-recognized categories, including Total Injury Rate (TIR) and Days Away, Restricted, Transferred (DART) rate. Both injury rates were significantly better than industry averages.

Safety is a corporate value at Great River Energy and all employees are responsible for ensuring a culture of safety among employees and the communities Great River Energy serves. Generating and transmitting electricity is a dangerous business, and Great River Energy is proud to have achieved this milestone as it strives for an even better workplace.

GRE News

Who is watching your animals?



Protect your livestock with specialized monitoring for:

- Power Loss
- Temperature
- Door Sensors
- Basic Intrusion
- Automatic Feeding Equipment



A subsidiary of:



www.heartlandss.com 888.264.6380

The Power To Protect

What is an ECM and how can it save me money?



An ECM is an electronically commutated motor. It is a brushless motor with its own speed and torque controls built in. They are used as new or replacement furnace fans. Furnaces equipped with an ECM will have lower annual operating costs and are estimated to save consumers \$40 to \$300 per year, depending upon how the furnace fan is used. Homeowners who operate their furnace fan continually have the greatest energy consumption and the greatest potential for saving.

An ECM allows the motor to adjust its speed to ensure the optimal airflow at all times. ECMs are also quieter and less expensive to operate than conventional fans. You save on both heating and cooling. With their adjustable speed design, furnaces with an ECM operate on as little as 80 watts of electricity (less than a standard electric light bulb). The electrical draw can be up to ten times less than standard motors which run on high all the time.

McLeod Co-op Power offers a \$100 rebate to members who replace their furnace fan with an ECM. Both new furnace installations and fan retrofits qualify, as long as the new motor is an ECM. Talk to your HVAC contractor about an upgrade to an ECM. Call the Co-op for details on how to get the rebate.

Ridgewater College Foundation recipients

Five area students are recipients of McLeod Cooperative Power Scholarships at Ridgewater College for the spring semester.

Lesley Brellenthin of Hutchinson,
Dan Hilgert of Glencoe,
Jaclynn Condon of Hutchinson,
Paige Lemke of Hutchinson
Carol Munoz of Glencoe

Each received a \$500 scholarship with funding from the Co-op's unclaimed capital credit fund. Scholarships are awarded through the Ridgewater Foundation to local students attending class on either the Hutchinson or Willmar campus.

- Tough exterior resists dents, scratches and rust.
- Free of ozone-depleting CFCs and HCFCs.
- No-leak warranty for as long as you own your home.
- 6-year warranty on thermostat and elements, including labor.
- Made in Minnesota.

Coal Creek Tour to include Medora Musical & Pitchfork Fondue in 2012



A Yearly Creation: the Medora Musical

The Coal Creek Tour is scheduled for August 20-22, 2012. Coal Creek



The Best Steak in the West

Generation Station, Falkirk Coal Mine and Garrison Dam are again on the itinerary, but added to the tour this year is a trip to Medora. Participants will spend a night in Medora, take in the Medora Musical and eat at the Pitchfork Fondue experience.

Cost will be \$300 per person double occupancy or \$400 per person single occupancy. If any members are interested, we are starting to take reservations. Call the Co-op at 1-800-494-6272 and ask for Katie.

Power Line Worker Scholarships Offered

Students accepted into one of Minnesota's three power line technology programs for the 2012-13 school term may apply for a \$500 scholarship. The Cooperative will award up to four \$500 scholarships for local students.

If you are graduating from a high school in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or Carver County or are a resident of one of those four counties and have been accepted into the line worker program at Minnesota West in



Jackson, Minnesota State in Wadena or Rosemount Technical College in Rosemount, you are eligible to apply.

Applications and informative career brochures are available by calling the Cooperative at 800-494-6272. Applications must be completed and returned by April 16, 2012.

Business Expansions

UFC forms new LLC



United Farmers Cooperative is pleased to announce that Archer Daniels Midland (ADM/BQ) will join with UFC to form United Grain Systems, LLC. The new LLC will own and operate all of UFC's existing grain assets and businesses in Bird Island, Klossner, Lafayette, LeSueur and Winthrop, plus the LLC will own and operate the new grain shuttle facility and loop track outside of Brownton, Minnesota.

ADM/BQ and UFC will each own half of the membership interests and share control of the LLC. The LLC is exclusively a grain business. UFC continues to own and operate its agronomy, energy, feed and machinery/equipment divisions. The new LLC began operation on or about February 1, 2012.

The new facility on Hwy. 15 west of Brownton is expected to be operational by September 12, 2012. Construction of the shuttle and loop track began last September. The fall was almost perfect for ground preparation and pouring cement for tunnels and footings. A photo of construction at the new Brownton site, served by McLeod Co-op Power, is shown. This is where regional grain loading will be done to ship grain by rail, instead of truck.

McLeod Cooperative Power has been providing temporary power during the construction phase and will be building a new substation near the facility in late spring 2012, to serve the UFC load.

Questions on CAPX2020 power line project

Some of the Cooperative's members in Renville and Sibley Counties will be affected by the CAPX2020 power line project. Some members along the proposed route may be affected by construction of the transmission line. A few members may be affected if McLeod Co-op Power is required to move our existing distribution lines near their home.

McLeod Co-op Power engineering/staking employees will be talking to our members if they will be affected by work our Cooperative will do where lines need to be moved or converted to underground. Members along the route having questions regarding the transmission line project are instructed to call CAPX2020 coordinators at 1-888-473-2279.

Tetra Pak CPS completing expansion project in Winsted

Tetra Pak CPS in Winsted is completing the addition of 21,560 square feet of factory and manufacturing area and 4,560 square feet of office space. Employees have begun to occupy the new office area. The factory will be ready for testing and use about March 15. A formal opening with all production equipment in place is expected by mid-April. Purpose of the expansion is to increase Tetra Pak's manufacturing capabilities beyond cheese-making equipment. Tetra Pak will now be able to manufacture processing equipment for the Dairy, Beverage and Prepared Food industry in North, Central, and South America.

Tetra Pak Cheese and Powder Systems (CPS) Inc. specializes in cheese making equipment and provides proven solutions for evaporated and dried powder technologies. Tetra Pak CPS Inc. is part of Tetra Pak, the world's leading food processing and packaging solutions company. Working closely with their customers and suppliers, they provide safe, innovative and environmentally sound products that each day meet the needs of hundreds of millions of people in more than 170 countries around the world. With almost 22,000 employees based in over 85 countries, a company spokesperson confirmed,



"We believe in responsible industry leadership and a sustainable approach to business. Our motto, 'PROTECTS WHAT'S GOOD,'" reflects our vision to make food safe and available everywhere."

McLeod Cooperative Power has been the electrical energy provider to the plant since it began operation as Scherping Systems, a stainless steel manufacturer, back in 1986. Scherping Systems operated as part of the Walker Stainless Steel organization for a time, and was sold in 2006 to Tetra Pak CPS. Since then the facility has been expanding and growing. Tetra Pak CPS currently employs about 125 persons in its Winsted facility and will be adding some new jobs when everything is completed.



Profiles of director candidates for District 4, 5 & 6

The Nominating Committee met February 16 to select the names that will appear on the ballot for the election of directors in Districts 4, 5 & 6. The Nominating Committee is required to select two people from each district.

District 4 includes:

Boon Lake, Preston Lake, Brookfield, Hector, Osceola, and a portion of Kingman Township, all in Renville County, and a portion of East Lake Lillian Township in Kandiyohi County, served by McLeod Cooperative Power.



Doug Breikreutz

Doug Breikreutz and his wife Marie are probably best known to members in Renville County as the owners of Babe's Blossoms, a retail greenhouse located seven miles north of Hector on State Highway 4. They run the seasonal greenhouse/garden center with Jim and Eileen Roebke. It is located on Marie's home farmstead. She and Doug have lived in Brookfield township since 1980. Doug and Marie have one son, one daughter, and five grandchildren.

Doug graduated from Belview High School. He worked in several grain elevators. Then he and Marie managed a sow/feeder pig operation in Klossner. After moving to Hector they crop farmed and farrowed hogs. In 1996 they opened Babe's Blossoms. Today, the Breikreutz's rent out their farm land but help with fall field work. They ready the greenhouses in the winter and run the retail greenhouse March through July.

In his spare time, Doug hunts, fishes, trains his own hunting dogs, and enjoys woodworking. Doug taught firearm safety for 25 years, and taught 4-H dog obedience. He is active and has served on the boards of Hector Lions, Bird Island-Renville Rangers Shooting Club, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hector. He also volunteers with a men's group that has traveled to Minnesota towns to repair buildings damaged in natural disasters.

Doug would like to learn more about the Cooperative and help wherever needed. He would like to make sure things are done economically. He also is interested in renewable energy at affordable prices for the future of consumers. When asked why he would be a good director, his wife said, "He is a great listener and can break down information to help people make decisions."



Doug Kirtz

Doug and Lorie, along with their children Seth, Eli and Sadie, operate Kirtz Farms by Hector. They run a 550 sow farrow-to-wean hog operation. They also grow corn and soybeans. Doug is the director in District 4 and currently serves as the board vice-president. He has served as president for four years. Doug was

appointed to this board seat when Curtis Rossow was no longer eligible to serve as a director.

Doug is a member of the Renville County Pork Producers and has served on the board as president and vice-president. He is a Cub Scout den leader and helps with youth wrestling and baseball.

Doug is interested in keeping our Cooperative fiscally sound, with good, reliable service for its members. He will strive to keep the Cooperative strong today and into the future for our next generations. As a consumer of electricity, Doug knows the need for cost-efficient prices along with a need for reliable and excellent service.

District 5 includes:

Lynn, Collins, and Round Grove Townships, all in McLeod County.



Allan Duesterhoeft

Allan lives in Lynn Township, about eight miles southwest of Hutchinson. He farms 160 acres raising corn, soybeans and alfalfa, and feeds Holstein steers.

Allan is a member of Zion Lutheran Church where he serves as congregation treasurer and Sunday School teacher.

Allan would like to serve as a director because of the tremendous importance electricity has in our lives. This was demonstrated on July 1st of last year when McLeod Co-op Power was hit with major wind storm damage. Allan believes an important issue facing the Cooperative is the need to improve its communication with the membership with regard to the cost of electricity, especially with all the mandates required by Minnesota's 2007 Next Generation Energy Act and the restrictions the EPA is imposing on coal generation.



Edward C. Markgraf

Edward Markgraf and his wife Patricia have lived in their current home near the Lynn Township Hall for nearly 20 years. They have six children and eighteen grandchildren.

Ed graduated from Buffalo Lake High School. He served in the US Navy for three years. Early in his life he worked for farmers, the telephone company, the feed mill and he built houses with his brother. Ed and Pat operated a dairy and crop farm. Later in life Ed built pole barns for Lester's Inc. and worked for Hutchinson Technology (HTI). Since his retirement from HTI, he works part-time for area farmers by helping with spring and fall field work. He also hunts and fishes in his spare time.

Ed served at one time on the Lakeside Creamery Board. He said he would be a dependable director for McLeod Co-op Power, if elected, and would keep rates as low as possible.

District 6 includes:

New Auburn, Green Isle, Arlington, Dryden, and Transit Townships, all in Sibley County.



Wayne Grams

Wayne Grams has been a co-op member his entire life. He and his wife, Cindy, reside on the family farm at rural Winthrop, Transit Township of Sibley County. They have two grown children and a grandson.

Wayne is a graduate of Gaylord High School. He farms raising steers and beef cows, and crops of corn and soy beans. He has served for 30 years as Transit Township Clerk and has served ten years as a director for the Sibley County Township Association. He has held various positions on the church council, including council president for the past three years. He also drives forklift for Seneca Foods in Arlington.

"With my experience working with budgets and talking with legislators at various township lobbying days, I would be able to help the Cooperative board make decisions as the Co-op moves forward into a future that could be filled with uncertainty," said Wayne.



Lester Ranzau

Lester, the incumbent director, and his wife Linda, have five adult children. Lester helps two sons with the farming operation. Linda is a RN at Good Samaritan Center in

Arlington. Lester and Linda are active members of First Lutheran Church of Glencoe.

In addition to serving on McLeod Co-op Power's Board, Lester also represents MCPA on the board of Great River Energy, our power supplier.

Lester said, "I would like to continue serving on the local board because I feel I have the experience to serve in this capacity. I have gotten to know our state and federal legislators and have lobbied in St. Paul and Washington D.C. This connection is very important for MCPA today.

"I believe that important issues facing MCPA are: Keeping reliable service for our members and being efficient in today's economy." Lester added, "When a member has a problem, I'll continue my policy of following up until it is resolved."