

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

September 2016

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Full day of outage repairs on Thursday, August 4



Trees falling over or into power lines caused many of the outages on August 4. It takes additional time for crews to make repairs to electrical equipment when they have to cut and clear trees away first.



MCPA crews replaced a power pole broken off during the August 4 storm.

On August 4, McLeod Co-op Power Association (MCPA) went from over 1,160 outages in the morning to zero outages by evening. While the vast majority of our members had their electricity restored by 2 p.m., some of you had to wait a bit longer — and we appreciate your patience and understanding. MCPA line crews worked all day until the last members were back on that evening.

The challenge with outage restoration on August 4 was that storm damage was geographically widespread. The first outage calls came in from areas outside of Hector, Buffalo Lake, Winthrop, and Stewart. So crews headed west to start restoring power. As the storm moved to the northeast, lightning strikes and strong

winds caused outages near Hutchinson, Silver Lake, Winsted, Watertown, Lester Prairie and Glencoe. There were many outages with trees or branches down on power lines that took time to remove before repairs could be made. Some damage sites included broken poles and snapped lines.

The Sherman Substation west of Winsted had a high-side fuse knocked out that left almost 450 members in McLeod County with partial power (dim lights). A lightning strike near the substation is the suspected but unconfirmed cause of the problem. See tips on this page for what to do if you experience partial power, dimming lights, or your power goes on and off repeatedly.

Take action when you experience dim lights

Please call the Co-op to report partial power, dimming lights, or your power going on and off repeatedly, just as you would call to report a total power outage. The Co-op will respond to fix a problem with Co-op owned equipment.

Operating appliances like air conditioners, furnace fans, well pumps, or electronics during times of partial power, dimming lights, low voltage conditions, or power going on and off repeatedly, is not recommended. Trying to start or operate some of these appliances without proper voltage can cause problems. To protect your appliances from possible damage, shut them off until normal power is restored.

During summer storms, our priority is you

Summer is thunderstorm season, and that means power outages. Sometimes those outages are more widespread or prolonged than any of us would like. As a member-owned organization, we take our commitment to deliver reliable energy very seriously. That commitment is especially acute when our membership is without power and the Co-op's outage response becomes critical.

Given the importance of storm response, we thought you might appreciate a brief behind-the-scenes look at how MCPA prepares for, responds to and restores service during outages.

BEFORE OUTAGES OCCUR

We are proud of MCPA's grid, which is a very sturdy and well-maintained system. We are working towards utilizing modern, technologically advanced systems such as access to communication with all of our substations in real time, GPS in most of our line trucks

so we know where they are at all times, and linemen having access to electronic maps.

We invest in these technologies so we can restore power as quickly and safely as possible, while keeping our entire system and members informed. That is no small task, as MCPA serves over 6,700 accounts and 8,800 meters in seven counties and has 1,891 miles of distribution lines.

RESPONDING TO OUTAGES

During regular business hours our employees take outage calls. Cooperative Response Center, our 24 hour dispatch center, takes calls anytime day or night at 1-800-927-5685.

Members can see what townships have outages on MCPA's Outage Map on our website www.mcleodcoop.com. The map is updated every 5 minutes to show when outages are restored. The Co-op

wants all members to call in to report an outage, even if you think neighbors have already reported that it is out. You could have an individual outage at your residence that does not clear when the line serving your neighborhood comes back on. Please call back a second time if you see your neighbor's power is restored and you are still in the dark.

RESTORING POWER

When faced with multiple outages, we try to prioritize the largest outages first — particularly substations. Next, feeder outages and then line outages are addressed. We always try to get as many members back on as possible, as quickly as possible. So individual outages are not usually restored first. Members on life support or with medical equipment requiring electricity are encouraged to notify the Co-op in advance that such equipment is in use.

The Co-op's first priority when restoring power is always safety — for our crews and for our membership. Beyond this, our objective is to restore power as quickly and efficiently as possible.



How will the Power Cost Adjustment affect your electric bill?

In October, there will likely be a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) added to your bill. You may recall that for the last several years, due to the volatility of the cost of power we had added a PCA to your monthly bill. In March 2016, we suspended the PCA addition with the expectation that our new energy rate had sufficiently anticipated changes to the cost of power for 2016. Unfortunately, July proved to be more volatile than expected. Had a PCA been in place for July, there would have been a two cent per kWh PCA charge. The power cost charges from July will be accumulated with those of August to calculate the PCA for the bill you receive in October.

You may wonder why the Cooperative did not add a PCA during the summer months. The reason is that your bill for July energy use had already been calculated in August when the Co-op received its higher-than-expected wholesale power bill. There is a time lag between when power is used and the monthly wholesale costs are billed to the Co-op. Consequently, power cost charges for July and August energy will be applied to MCPA member's September energy use, on the bill that is mailed

to you in October.

It seems this would be a good time to explain more fully the Power Cost Adjustment. It is an adjustment to your monthly rate and is implemented to deal with fluctuation in wholesale power costs while keeping the base rate stable. Essentially, the PCA reflects recent increases in the cost of the wholesale power we purchase to distribute to our members. Most of that power is purchased from Great River Energy (GRE), a smaller portion from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), and even some produced by Distributed Generators (net metering) on our system. Rather than adjusting our retail schedules each time our power supplier's rates change, the PCA is used to pass on the increases or decreases of power cost.

GRE sets its rates each year based on a number of variables including the cost of fuel and the amount and cost of power purchased from the market. They also estimate the amount of power to be sold into the market. If their costs are greater than or less than their base rate, they pass the difference through to us. If it is an additional charge, we add some or all of it to

your bill in the form of a PCA. If it is a credit, you will see a PCA credit just the same. That is why the PCA on your bill may change from month to month.

The major factor is the price our wholesale power provider (GRE) has to pay for fuels such as coal and natural gas to run the power plants, and renewables. At times, GRE buys power from the open market when the load exceeds their capacity to generate power, when they are unable to generate power due to planned or unplanned maintenance, or perhaps when it is more economical to do so. Midcontinent ISO (MISO), the wholesale market operator for Minnesota and much of the Midwest, reported that electricity prices rose from June to July in the MISO market as a result of higher natural gas prices.

Weather is another factor that impacts the PCA. A very mild month with only a few extreme temperature days can skew our cost per kWh. An extreme temperature day can cause a high peak demand. Couple that with lower than normal usage during mild days and it results in a higher cost per kWh on the wholesale power bill.

Wholesale power costs are our largest expense item at the Cooperative. Sixty-five cents of every dollar you send us goes to purchase power for our members. GRE has responded by instituting budget reductions, delaying some capital expenses, and critically looking at the economic contribution of Stanton Station, resulting in its pending closure. All these factors are intended to mitigate some of the rate increases.

We understand and share your concerns about having reliable, yet affordable, electricity. We encourage you to take advantage of our energy management and conservation programs. These programs offer rebates and incentives to use less energy or use energy at off-peak times, resulting in lower electric bills for you. If you have concerns about our rates or programs or if we can provide information to help you reduce your energy bill, please give us a call.

Looking forward to keeping your lights on.

Carrie

YEAR TO DATE FINANCIALS

Through June

	2016	2015
Operating Revenue	\$ 9,687,484	\$ 9,440,428
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 6,085,986	\$ 6,140,753
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 3,663,882	\$ 3,264,846
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$ 9,749,868	\$ 9,405,599
Operating Margins	\$ (62,384)	\$ 34,829
Non Operating Margins	\$ 252,681	\$ 170,644
Total Margins	\$ 190,297	\$ 205,473
kWh's Sold	85,238,740	89,410,589
Member Services Billed	6,645	6,610
Avg kWh Used, Residential/Month	1,246	1,449

July Outage Summary

During July there were 75 outages reported on the Cooperative's system. The outages affecting the largest number of members were related to the July 5 thunderstorm. Over 100 members were without power from under one hour to over seven hours, depending upon the outage in their neighborhood.

Most outages affect only one or two members. They are frequently

caused by small animals, trees in the line, equipment failure, or motor vehicle/machinery accidents. Larger outages affecting hundreds of members at a time are usually caused by transmission outages, storms, equipment failure to substation equipment, or accidents.

Restoration time on weekend and evening outages, when line crews are called out from home, usually take a little longer to get back on than outages when crews are already out working on the project.

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Editor: Sue Pawelk
General Manager: Carrie L. Buckley

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All member story ideas and comments are welcome.
Send to Sue Pawelk at the address shown.

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

Phone: 320-864-3148
1-800-494-6272
24-hour outage: 1-800-927-5685
Fax: 320-864-4850
Web site: www.mcleodcoop.com

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McLeod Cooperative Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Operation RoundUp donation helps Equul Access, Inc. expand services to year-round



L to r: Lydia (volunteer), Rachel (volunteer), owner/instructor Marsha Anderson, Foxy the horse, and student Antone posed with the big check, showing the \$1,000 donation to Equul Access from The Co-op's Operation RoundUp fund, prior to a therapeutic riding class this summer.



The indoor riding arena at Equul Access before the process of being insulated, winterized, and heated so therapeutic riding classes can continue year-round. Equul Access is located south of Hutchinson.



Insulation work that has been completed over the summer in the riding arena. Lighting, ventilation, sheet metal work are yet to be finished.

Equul Access, Inc. has offered therapeutic horseback riding to individuals with special needs since it was founded in 2002. Marsha Anderson, Executive Director of Equul Access, said that the facility has served 150-200 individuals per year. Currently about twelve individuals are involved in the program and another 15-20 volunteers participate to help make it a safe riding experience. Equul Access also offers lessons through the Hutchinson Parks, Recreation & Community Education Department. Founder Marsha Anderson is an advanced instructor and equine specialist in mental health and

learning with the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International.

The students who utilize therapeutic riding benefit physically because it builds strength and joint mobility. It can allow students with physical mobility issues to "walk normally" on horseback. It helps improve student's fine and gross motor skills. It improves balance. Riding also has a calming effect that helps regulate the body.

Socially, it gives students the opportunity to build friendships and develop social skills. The riding helps them build confidence while developing a love and

respect for animals.

There are even educational components for the participants to use spelling and math skills. Plus the riding aids eye-hand coordination, visual/spatial perception, and helps them learn to follow directions.

The members who contribute to the Co-op's Operation RoundUp Program helped to fund a \$1,000 donation to Equul Access for the purchase of building materials for insulating their indoor riding arena. This summer the Hutchinson High School hockey team volunteered to start the installation of the insulation. Heating and building improvements were also planned. When combined with donations from other foundations and organizations, the donation from Operation RoundUp will allow the therapeutic riding program to expand and offer services in the winter. Year-round access will allow participants to not lose the gains they have made.

Marsha currently has five horses that she uses in the program, plus one new Gypsy Vanner horse that Equul Access won through a FaceBook voting competition. The top ten centers with the most votes would receive a gypsy horse for their program. Lexlin's Mystic Dancer joined the program in July.

Any MCPA member may participate in Operation RoundUp. By allowing the Co-op to round up your monthly bill to the nearest whole dollar amount, the change from your bill is donated to local projects via the Operation RoundUp Program. Funds are donated to local projects chosen by the volunteer board of Operation RoundUp annually. Equul Access and other program beneficiaries are 501(c) 3 tax exempt organizations. Your tax-deductible donation shows on your electric bill and is your receipt for taxes.

Joining Operation RoundUp is simple. Just complete and return the form on this page with your electric bill. Call the Co-op office if you have questions.

Yes, sign me up for Operation Round Up. I understand that my bills will be rounded up to the next dollar amount and the proceeds will be used for local charitable programs.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Account #: _____

Signature: _____

Rebate program for 2016

Electric Storage Water Heating* \$400

Electric Storage Space Heating** \$50/kW

Air Source Heat Pump

14.5 SEER \$480

15 SEER \$580

16 SEER or higher \$630

Ductless Air Source Heat Pump

Delivered Fuels \$300

Primary Electric Heat \$500

Ground Source Heat Pumps

(controlled or uncontrolled) \$400/ton

ECM (fan motor) \$100

Recycling of Old Refrigerator or Freezer

with documented proof of recycling \$75

LED Yard Light \$60

ENERGY STAR Swimming Pool

Air source heat pump \$400

Variable speed pump \$200

ENERGY STAR Dehumidifier \$ 25

* Marathon or equivalent energy rated heater that is being installed on the Storage Program. ** ETS space heating rebate is exempt from \$2,000 per member maximum rebate limit.

There is a \$2,000 maximum rebate per member per year. Only Storage Space Heating rebate is not included in the \$2,000 cap. Rebates are always on a first come, first serve basis, so please turn in your paperwork promptly. Rebate forms are available for download from the Co-op's website. Air source heat pump rebate forms should be completed by installing contractor. Rebates for high efficiency heat pumps will continue to require installation by a "registered contractor" which has been designated as a quality installer and is listed on the hvacreduction.net web site. A



list of all "registered" contractors in Minnesota is on our cooperative web site at www.mcleodcoop.com. There will be no rebates on central air conditioners in 2016. The Cooperative encourages any member replacing their air conditioner to upgrade to an ENERGY STAR rated air source heat pump.

Rebate forms must be received by December 20, 2016 to be eligible for rebate.



Mary and Greg Schwarzrock in their rural Hutchinson home.



This 4,000+ square foot home sits on 40 acres, three of which produce winter-hardy grapes for Crow River Winery.

Asking questions leads to productive vineyard, efficient home

Driving to the Greg and Mary Schwarzrock home in rural Hutchinson, you're struck first by the vibrant green cragginess of healthy grapevines rolling across a three-acre parcel; part of the 40-acre homestead the couple purchased in 2007. Their three-year-old home is nestled back from the road and is surrounded by beautiful vistas, flowers and graceful young trees.

The couple purchased the land from a farmer in 2007 and the first inhabitants were the grapevines.

"We had a family friend that was growing grapes and we were interested in trying it," Mary said. "We attended seminars at the University of Minnesota to learn all we could."

It took a healthy capital outlay and hard work to build the vineyard structures and purchase the hardy Minnesota grape variety plants. Within three years the vines began to produce. The Schwarzrocks sell the grapes to the Crow River Winery in Hutchinson, which produces a large selection of wines made from Minnesota-grown winter-hardy grapes.

Six years after purchasing the land, the Schwarzrocks built their 4,000-plus square foot rambler with finished lower level. One of the first steps they took was to contact the Cooperative to ask about in-floor heat for their garage area.

"Shannon talked with us about all the options available for heating and cooling the home," Greg said. "He thought that a Steffes furnace would be our best option."

A Steffes storage space heating furnace is the perfect choice for members who want an all-electric option with no propane combustion or propane tank sitting in the yard.

A Steffes furnace provides constant 100 percent efficient heat that is available as a forced air unit or a hydronic unit for in-floor heat tubing. The Schwarzrocks opted for a hydronic unit so they could have in-floor heat in their basement. It also is fitted with an air handler unit for use with their central air conditioning.



A Marathon water heater is used in the home and in their meat market.

A Steffes furnace has a unique design whereby special ceramic bricks inside the furnace heat up during the night when electricity is cheapest. These bricks release heat throughout the day in response to the thermostat.

In addition, the couple had an air source heat pump installed instead of a traditional air conditioning unit. A heat pump provides energy efficient cooling and if used on the Co-op's energy management program, qualifies for a low electric rate, saving even more.

But where a heat pump really shines is that it also provides up to 200 percent efficient heat during the shoulder months in the spring and fall, and can provide extra-efficient supplemental heat during the winter months to lower heating costs even further. During the coldest months of the year when the heat pump is not able to provide 100 percent of the heat, the Steffes furnace kicks in to heat things up.



A Steffes storage furnace heats bricks at night and radiates heat all day.

To top it off, the Schwarzrocks purchased a Marathon water heater, which has a no-rust poly construction and superior insulation to keep the hot water hotter. As part of the off-peak or energy management system, their water is heated only at night, along with the Steffes furnace. Both are controlled during the day while the benefits of space heating and hot water are enjoyed all day long.

Besides Greg's job as a designer and machinist, and Mary's job as a plant manager, the couple own a meat market that their son manages for them. They put a Marathon water heater in there, as well.

"We never run out of hot water," Greg said. "I like the quality of the water heater and the size of it. It just doesn't compare to the ones you find in big box stores."

One more energy-saving system helps the Schwarzrocks heat their garage: a storage floor heating system. Electric cable is dug into sand

State will not appeal North Dakota coal power suit

Minnesota will not appeal a federal court ruling that called unconstitutional a law restricting importing electricity from coal-fired electric generating plants.

North Dakota filed the suit against the Minnesota Next Generation Energy Act and won in a federal district court. A federal appeals court panel in June agreed with the district court, leaving the U.S. Supreme Court the only opportunity for Minnesota to win.

The decision means that Minnesota utilities may buy electricity produced in North Dakota plants, where they generate power with locally mined coal known as lignite. Minnesota's law, designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, also bans new coal-fired power plants in the state. That part of the law remains on the books.

Earlier this summer, North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem called the law "overreaching regulations." Stenehjem's office said that if the Minnesota law were left in place, it would have prevented North Dakota utilities from providing power to a regional distribution system that sells to Minnesota utilities.

The state of North Dakota, electric cooperatives that serve Minnesota customers and other organizations challenged the Minnesota law. They said it violated part of the U.S. Constitution that gives Congress the sole power to regulate interstate commerce, claiming that the Minnesota law hampered North Dakota businesses.

The general issue of Minnesota trying to stop purchase of coal-fired North Dakota electricity dates back decades, but Stenehjem said the North Dakota coal industry is cleaning up its product. "We have invested mightily in that," he said. "There are a lot of scientists working on it."

North Dakota has a record of the country's cleanest air, even in the area around the coal power plants, Stenehjem said. North Dakota coal also is cheap energy, he said. "We generate electricity inexpensively, and we're happy to do it."

However, the battle is not quite over. North Dakota has asked the federal court to require Minnesota to pay legal fees of more than \$1 million it has built up, a request Minnesota is fighting. A Minnesota Commerce Department spokesman did not know how much Minnesota has spent on the lawsuit.

~West Central Tribune



beneath the floor. As the sand is heated, it gives off its heat to the concrete above it. Because the sand is able to trap and release heat, the cable doesn't have to be energized continually, and yet the floor retains its warmth.

In the three years since the home has been occupied, the average monthly winter electric bill (Nov. - Mar.), including heating and lighting the home, garage and water, was just under \$400 per month for their 4,000-square-foot home. Three months of air conditioning cost about \$40 a month with an air source heat pump on load control.

If the Schwarzrocks had it to do over again, they would put in the same heating and cooling system they have now, rather than go back to any system that used propane.

"When we first were talking about putting in a Steffes, it cost more than some other options," Greg said. "Shannon told me that with the current price of propane, I could achieve a payback in about three years. But that was the year that propane went up

to about \$5 a gallon. I think we paid ourselves back that first year."

"It just seems like such an easy system," Greg continued. "There are no worries, no carbon burning so there seems to be less dust, and it's very efficient.

Due to the Schwarzrock's use of a Steffes (or electric thermal storage) heating system they, along with other Co-op members from rural electric cooperatives across the state, were offered an opportunity to pose for a series of testimonial ads by power supplier Great River Energy. Greg and Mary spent about an hour at the studio with a Minneapolis advertising agency allowing themselves to be photographed. After deliberation of the ad agency staff and others, Greg's photo (see below) was one of a few that were chosen to be used in advertisements by Great River Energy and it's 28 member cooperatives in Minnesota to help members understand the benefits of using electro thermal storage (ETS) heating for their homes and businesses.

Notice to Members who are behind in your bill payments

The Cold Weather Rule may not protect you!

Make plans now to pay your bill to avoid being without electricity this winter.

McLeod Cooperative Power regularly disconnects the electrical supply of members who do not pay for the electricity they use. While we dislike to have to disconnect members, it would not be fair to our other members if we allow certain members to use electricity for free while our other members pay.

The Cold Weather Rule was adopted to protect some people from having their primary source of electric heat disconnected between October 15 and April 15. However, this law doesn't mean there won't be disconnections. The law says that a person must be making regular payments or have set up a payment plan and be honoring those arrangements to avoid being disconnected. If you are behind in your payments and are counting on the Cold Weather Rule to protect

you from making any payments during the winter, think again. McLeod Cooperative Power will be doing disconnections this winter in accordance with the law.

Please read the full Cold Weather Rule summary below. The list of agencies who can provide assistance to qualifying residents having trouble paying their bill is on this page and is also listed on the back of any electric bill with a delinquent balance.

It is up to the member to make payment arrangements or seek assistance to avoid disconnection. Please do not wait. The sooner you contact us, the greater the chance you will have electricity all winter long. Call today at 320-864-3148 or 1-800-494-6272 for details about applying for shut-off protection or to make a reasonable payment arrangement.

Cold Weather Rule Summary

The Cold Weather Rule, which is part of the Public Utilities Act, prohibits utilities from disconnecting a residential customer for nonpayment during the coldest months of the year if the customer has met the requirements under item 1 below. Your Cooperative strictly adheres to that law and offers sources of help for those unable to pay their bill. The law reads as follows:

1 An electric cooperative must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a home between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met:

- Your total household income is less than 50 percent of the State Median Income.
- You have contacted MCPA, have set up a payment arrangement, and are reasonably current with your scheduled payments.

If all of these items are not satisfied the electricity may be shut off due to non-payment.

2 Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the cold weather months, the Cooperative will provide

the following information to the customer:

- Notice of the proposed disconnection.
- A statement of the customer's rights and responsibilities.
- A list of local energy assistance providers.
- A statement explaining available time payment plans and other options to secure continued utility service.
- Inability to pay forms are available upon request.

3 Any residential customer whose service is disconnected on Oct. 15 may be reconnected if:

- The outstanding balance is paid.
- A mutually acceptable payment schedule is arranged.

Our members are important to McLeod Cooperative Power. We would rather work with you to set up a plan to pay your bill than disconnect your service.

4 The Cooperative will not disconnect service to a residential customer who has not responded to a disconnection notice without first investigating whether the dwelling is actually unoccupied.

This investigation shall include a personal visit to the dwelling. If the unit is found to be occupied, the Cooperative will immediately inform the occupant of his or her rights under this policy.

5 If an involuntary disconnection is to occur between Oct. 15 and April 15, then the disconnection will not occur on a Friday or on the day before a holiday.

6 Any disputes over a residential customer's inability to pay for service, income eligibility, reasonableness of payment schedule or any other issue which a customer could raise under the Cold Weather Rule shall be referred for hearing, after reasonable notice, to the Cooperative's Board of Directors. The Cooperative and the customer shall have the right to present evidence and be heard in person at that hearing. The Cooperative's Board of Directors shall issue a written decision within 10 days after the hearing. No disconnection shall occur while a dispute is pending.

7 The Cooperative will notify all members, prior to Oct. 15, of its Cold Weather Rule. Names and contact numbers for energy assistance providers are listed on this page.

Energy Assistance Providers

Kandiyohi, McLeod & Meeker Counties

United Community Action Partnership

PO Box 1359, 200 4th St. SW
Willmar, MN 56201
218 Main St. S., Suite 108,
Hutchinson MN 55350
Toll free: 800-992-1710
McLeod: 800-829-2132

McLeod County area

McLeod County Social Service Center

1805 Ford Avenue North
Glencoe, MN 55336
(320) 864-3144
(320) 484-4330 (Hutchinson
Toll-Free)
1-800-247-1756 (Toll Free)

Renville County area

Renville County Energy Assistance Program

105 S. 5th Street, Suite 203H,
Olivia, MN 56277
320-523-2202
1-800-363-2533

Sibley County area

Sibley County Public Health & Human Services

111 8th Street
Gaylord, MN 55334
(507) 237-4000
1-866-396-9963

MN Valley Action Council

110 6th Street, P.O. Box 87
Gaylord, MN 55334
(507) 237-2981
706 N. Victory Dr.
Mankato, MN 56001
(507) 345-6822
1-800-767-7139 (Toll Free)

Carver County area

Scott-Carver-Dakota Community Action Agency

712 Canterbury Road South
Shakopee, MN 55379
(952)-496-2125

Wright County area

Wright County Community Action

130 West Division Street
Maple Lake, MN 55358
(320) 963-6500



Every livestock operation needs the right size generator

We know that summertime storms can leave us without power at the most critical of times when cows need to be milked or livestock watered. Winter storms or ice storms have the potential to keep us in the dark for days. So any farmer with livestock should make the smart investment into a generator that is sized to perform 100% of their critical tasks.

This means that if you need to run ventilation fans or operate curtains to keep your livestock breathing healthy air, that your generator should be sized to run all of your required fans, at the same time it can provide lighting and run the well pump to water your animals in confinement housing. You should be able to operate lights, milking equipment, well pump, water heater and ventilation fans in a dairy operation simultaneously.

If your generator is undersized consult with a generator supply company that provides agricultural generators systems. It is one of the best insurance measures you can take to protect your livestock from death. It will also make your life much easier when a storm knocks your power out.



A blink is better than an outage

At one time or another we have all returned home to have to reset every digital clock that does not

have a battery backup. Usually this is caused by a "blink" in the electrical system.

While blinks can be annoying, they actually show that the electrical system is working the way it is supposed to. Our electrical system is designed to utilize technology and equipment to protect itself and prevent lengthy outages by allowing momentary blinks.

Why blinks?

Blinks are created when a breaker or switch opens along any portion of the power system. The breaker usually opens because of a large, quick rise of electrical current. This large rise, called a fault condition, can occur when a tree branch touches a line, lightning strikes, or a wire breaks.

When this happens, a device called a relay senses the fault and tells the breaker to open, preventing the flow of power to the problem site which could cause bigger problems. After opening, the breaker quickly closes. The brief delay, which allows the fault to clear, usually lasts less than two seconds.

If the fault clears, every home or business that receives electricity off of that line has just experienced a blink rather than an outage.

This could include hundreds of members if the breaker protects a transmission line or a substation.

If the fault doesn't clear after three attempts, then the breaker will open again and an outage will occur until a line crew can fix the problem.

How to reduce the Blink's effects:

While we have taken steps to reduce the number of blinks across our power system through vegetation management and system maintenance, there are measures you can take as well. Tree trimming is probably the easiest and most common way to prevent blinks and outages, and one area where you can help. Please make us aware of any trees or limbs located close to a power line.

Meanwhile, you can reduce the frustration of blinks by purchasing an alarm clock equipped with a battery backup. This type of digital clock offers a "ride through" ability for momentary outages. It will also keep the correct time and sound an alarm in case of a long-duration outage, provided a charged battery is in place.

If your computer is affected by occasional blinks, an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) on your computer can help prevent information loss. The UPS incorporates surge suppression technology with a battery backup and provides you a little time to save whatever you were working on and exit your computer properly.

McLeod Cooperative Power operates an active system maintenance program and works hard to identify and fix sources of service interruptions. Even though blinks will never disappear from our electrical energy delivery system, by working together we can minimize the effects of the interruptions and the frequency with which they occur.

MCPA News Ads — Free want ad service for members

Please limit your ad to nine words. Use the coupon printed here or available at McLeod Cooperative's front desk to submit your ad. Ads will be printed for one month only. Please submit a new ad if you want it published more than one month. Include your name and address, which will be used for identification purposes only. Ads must be received by September 28 to be included in the October issue. Thank you!

Please run this ad in the next MCPA News

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Please check ad category

- Giveaway
- For Rent
- For Sale
- Wanted

Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

Clip and Send to: McLeod Cooperative Power, ATTN: Classified Ads
P.O. Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336

These want ads are designed to help members buy items from or sell items to other members, or rent their property to members. They are not designed to advertise services or for-profit business pursuits. That is why we do not offer a services column and do not accept advertisements for commercial businesses.

For Sale - Miscellaneous

- 6 X 12 Al enclosed trailer, drop down rear door. 612-803-4475
- Briggs & Stratton 3 1/2hp vertical shaft. Excel condition. \$35/obo. 320-699-1219
- Minn-kota Turbo 50 trolling motor, 36in shaft, 32lb thrust, 5sp t rev. \$50. 320-583-3888
- New 20lb pressurized abrasive blaster, 60-125lbs working pressure. \$50. 320-583-3888
- 2 black glass top desks w/corner connector. 320-420-2649
- 12 X 12 & 14 X 14 roll up doors. 320-522-2167
- 25 wood post all sizes. \$1.10/each. 320-587-7746
- Like new Hotblast wood/coal furnace w/accessories. \$770. 320-587-5651
- Vintage brass full size bed w/frame. \$45. 320-510-2199
- 2013 34ft Cross Road Zinger Travel Trailer, 2 slides, sleeps 10. 320-510-0072/320-510-3317

For Sale - Farm

- 1938 JD-B tractor and other machinery in era. 320-583-0146

- 5,000bu steel bin/dryer/floor dryer. Works good. 3 auger. Make offer. 320-327-2577
- 18ft X 18ft grain bin w/6in X 8in unload. B/O. 320-328-5371
- 1952 8N Ford, paint tires, hydraulic good shape. \$2,600. 320-234-7234
- MM 3 bottom plow. 320-522-2167
- Two wheel farm trailer. \$30. 320-587-7746
- Allied 7in grain auger 41ft, pto drive. 320-848-2660
- White 549 5 X 18 auto reset mounted plow. Good Shape. 320-587-6863
- Glencoe 18 1/2ft cultivator w/three bar noble harrow. \$750. 320-328-5501

Wanted

- Guineas any color, size, gender, age. 320-522-2814

Giveaway

- Cats. 507-964-2419

Disclaimer – McLeod Cooperative Power Association (MCPA) assumes no liability for the content of, or reply to, any item posted. The party posting any advertisement assumes complete liability for the content of, and all replies to, any advertisement and for any claims against MCPA as a result thereof, and agrees to indemnify and hold MCPA harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto.

Electric cars go farther, cost less than ever

Once thought of as a futuristic or out-of-reach luxury product, electric vehicles (EVs) are quickly becoming a more realistic option for mainstream consumers.

A variety of factors, such as driving ranges going up and sticker prices dropping, are now allowing drivers who may have previously ruled out plug-in hybrid or all-electric cars to more seriously consider them as an option that fits into their everyday lifestyle.

One of the biggest roadblocks for people to overcome when thinking about the transition from gasoline to electric is “range anxiety,” or the belief that one charge cannot get them to where they need to go for a full day. These drivers are used to stopping at one of many gas stations when they need to fill up last minute or as pit stops along the way on a road trip.

But according to a 2013 study conducted by Consumer Reports and the Union of Concerned Scientists, 69 percent of U.S. drivers drive less than 60 miles on weekdays, which is within the range of many EVs today and well within the ranges of newer models set to be released within the next year.

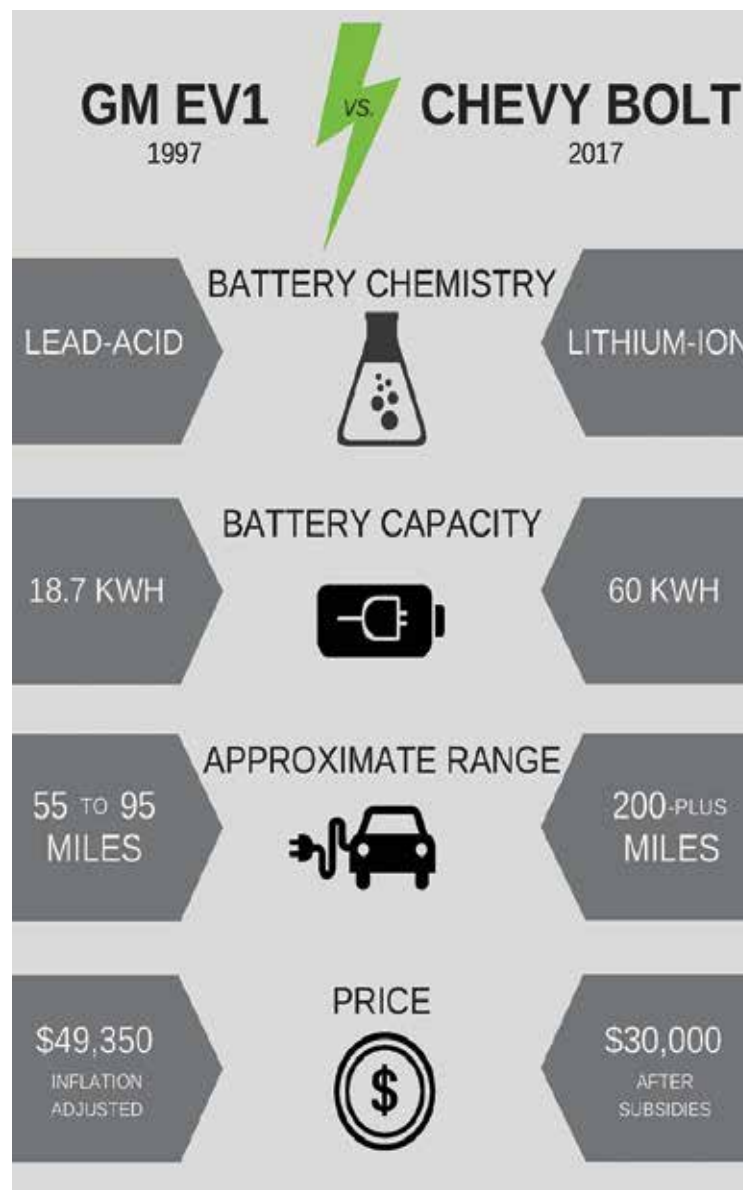
Battery technology advancements are a major factor in why EV ranges are getting longer while the vehicle costs are becoming more affordable. EV batteries have improved by 5 to 10 miles per year, according to Charge Point, an EV charging station infrastructure company. At the same time, battery costs are dwindling. Researchers estimate that once EV batteries cost \$150 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), they'll be cost-competitive

with gas vehicles. In 2010, the global average was \$1,000 per kWh, but by last year, it dropped to \$350 per kWh.

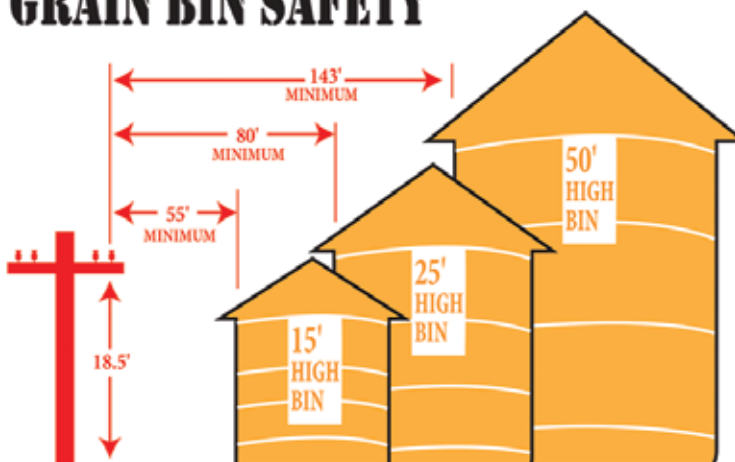
General Motors, which will release its 2017 Chevy Bolt later this year, said its lithium-ion battery cells cost \$145 per kWh and by late 2021, they could be at the \$100 mark. The 2017 Chevy Bolt boasts an all-electric, 200-plus mile range on one charge for a \$30,000 price tag after the \$7,500 federal tax credit. This is a major shift from GM's first EV offering in the late 90s, the EV1, which is noted for being the first serious modern attempt at an EV by a major manufacturer. It took approximately 15 hours to recharge the EV1 from a household outlet compared to the nine that it takes to charge up a new Bolt with an at-home charging unit.

Other EVs that will soon undergo production and offer high ranges for an affordable price include the 2018 Tesla Model 3, which garnered approximately 400,000 orders after its unveiling earlier this year. The price for this 200-mile range EV starts at \$35,000 and is eligible for the federal tax credit as well. The second generation Nissan Leaf will also have a range of at least 200 miles, making it a contender against the Model 3 and Bolt. Its unveiling is anticipated to take place later this year.

Today, EVs make up about 1 percent of cars on the road but many analysts watching the market expect that long-range EVs are poised for dramatic growth due to continued breakthroughs in battery technologies and everyday drivers deciding to make the switch to electric.



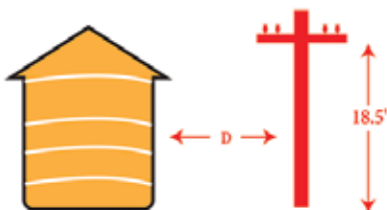
GRAIN BIN SAFETY



DANGER: HIGH VOLTAGE!
FOLLOW FARM SAFETY RULES AROUND POWER LINES

Height of grain storage structure	D=Minimum distance from line to bin wall*
15 ft.	55 ft.
20 ft.	68 ft.
25 ft.	80 ft.
30 ft.	93 ft.
35 ft.	104 ft.
40 ft.	118 ft.
50 ft.	143 ft.
60 ft.	168 ft.
70 ft.	193 ft.
80 ft.	218 ft.

*Based on a typical power line having a vertical clearance of 18.5 feet above the ground and a supply line phase to ground voltage of more than 0V to 22KV; National Electrical Safety Code Rule 232.



Harvesting safely around grain bins

As rewarding as it may be, farming is an extremely difficult job — and it ranks among the top 10 most dangerous professions in the United States. At McLeod Co-op Power (MCPA), safety is top priority for our employees and our members.

Our farmers work hard to get the job done, and sometimes it's easy to forget all the necessary steps to take when practicing safe operations. Grain bins are siloed spaces built for storing grain and fermented feed known as silage. These bins play an integral role in the efficiency and profitability of farm operations, and safety regulations should always be considered when working around these structures.

Whether you're purchasing new grain bins or remodeling areas that contain existing ones, proximity to overhead power lines must be a considered factor.

Safe clearance

The National Electrical Safety Code requires an 18-foot minimum vertical clearance from the highest point of the filling port of the grain bin to nearby high-voltage wires and a 55-foot minimum distance from the power line to the grain bin wall. See the chart on this page for

further guidelines. Changes to landscaping and drainage work can affect clearance heights of power lines, so remember to check these measurements regularly.

Filling grain bins

High-voltage power lines are not insulated, so it's important to remember to maintain an adequate high-wire clearance when using a portable auger, conveyor or elevator to fill your grain bin.

Moving equipment near grain bins

When moving equipment, such as a hopper or a scaffold, be aware of nearby power lines. Remember to maintain a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety.

Accidents can happen in a split-second, which is why MCPA reminds you to always use caution when working near power lines. If you are considering a plan for a new grain bin or reconstruction of an existing bin's site, please contact the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272 and let us assist you in maintaining a safe environment for you and your family.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.