

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

July 2017

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www.mcleodcoop.com

Co-op launches automatic generator service

Want to keep your lights on when the power goes out?

Looking to replace the old PTO generator with one generator that will start automatically?

McLeod Co-op Power is launching a turn-key automatic generator program using Briggs & Stratton generators. The Co-op will be available to assist members with properly sizing an automatic generator for their home, farm, or business needs. The Co-op will complete the sale, delivery, and safe installation of the generator for the member. The Co-op also plans to offer a maintenance program for annual servicing of the generator.

Hundreds of MCPA members responded on the 2016 survey that they were interested in the Co-op providing an emergency generator sales and service business. The Co-op has looked at this business option for a long time and has determined that many of our members have a desire for an automatic generator system. Recently, we seized the opportunity to partner with Briggs & Stratton on 8



to 200 kW generators and automatic transfer switches.



Briggs & Stratton is an American made product (in Milwaukee, WI). They are a company that has been around more than 100 years. They lead the industry with an excellent warranty and one of the quietest automatic home generators on the market. And best of all, the Co-op can offer generator systems to our members at competitive prices.

The Co-op is getting the program started this month. Members who want to say goodbye to the headaches associated with the power going out, now have an automatic option that will safely take over supplying power to critical appliances when electricity is not available. It is a good option for snowbirds, farms with livestock, and homeowners

that don't want to deal with the inconveniences when power goes out.

Briggs & Stratton offers a state-of-the-art Symphony® II Power management system for home generators that allows high wattage items like air conditioners, electric stoves, well pumps, electric water heaters or clothes dryers to be used (but not all at the same time, of course) without the need for a larger, more expensive generator. Their exclusive home automatic system allows purchasers to prioritize the use of up to eight high-wattage appliances that they may want to use during an extended outage.

Initially, the Co-op plans to focus on helping our members who would like a Briggs & Stratton automatic generator system. After our business is up and running, the generator systems will be available to both members and non-members. At this time, the Co-op does not plan to sell portable generators as they are readily available from many local retailers.

Call the Co-op if you are planning to purchase an automatic generator at 1-800-494-6272.

Adoption of Local Democracy authority to be considered at August board meeting

During the 2017 Legislative Session, the Minnesota Legislature passed — and the Governor signed — a provision that reduces duplicative regulation on your electric cooperative. This local democracy legislation returns some balance to the regulatory process, ensuring decisions that impact member-owners of cooperatives are made locally by their elected board of directors. While electric cooperatives are already locally regulated in most areas, this legislation made an important clarification, one that will allow for innovation in response to member's needs and wants for years to come.

The legislation impacts the distributed generation section of statute and brings it in line with the rest of Minnesota Statute as it applies to rates, fees and charges of electric cooperatives. Electric cooperatives still must follow the law as laid out by the legislature in this section. The provision that the legislature recently passed — and the Governor signed — allows for cooperatives to adopt the authority implementing this section of statute (Minnesota Statute 216B.164).

To do so a cooperative has to pass a resolution adopting this authority and adopt rules implementing this section of statute.

The municipal utilities in Minnesota have had similar authority in Minnesota for over 30 years. With the passage of the provision, the legislature affirmed the value of local decision making for rural electric cooperatives across Minnesota. As your locally-owned cooperative we know that local decision making can result in rates and services that reflect our community's needs while assisting in keeping administrative costs down.

At the August 22 meeting of your electric cooperative board of directors, the adoption of this authority will be addressed. Directors and staff will be reviewing the applicable law (MN 216B.164) and discussing a resolution and rules implementing the section of statute. The purpose of this change is to secure local decision-making, not to substantively change the way your cooperative interacts with distributed generation.

Any McLeod Co-op Power member interested in this change is encouraged to contact the Co-op with your comments in favor of or opposed to McLeod Co-op Power Board of Directors adopting the authority to implement the section of statute on distributed generation by sending your comments to the co-op board at the postal address or email address below. Comments should be received no later than August 16, 2017.

Mailing Address: McLeod Co-op Power Board, P.O. Box 70, Glencoe MN 55336

E-Mail Address: mcapinfo@mcleodcoop.com
Put "Local Democracy" in the subject line

Any McLeod Co-op Power member wishing to attend the August 22 board meeting to share their comments in person may do so by contacting the Co-op by August 16 and asking for a copy of the board policy on Attendance at Board Meetings by Members and a form requesting to attend the meeting.

Nondiscrimination Statement

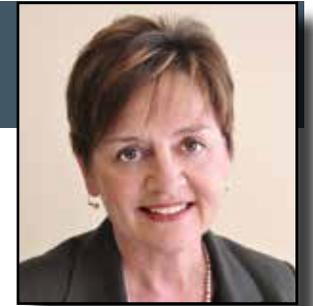
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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.
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Manager's Message — by Carrie L. Buckley, General Manager



This and That-

Storm season is upon us, although summer storms still surprise me. In Alaska, storm season was any season except summer! On June 11, I was once again surprised and reminded that our beautiful trees with all their leaves and roaring straight line winds are a difficult combination for our electric Co-op.

Be prepared for storm season with the following reminders:

1. Keep the Co-op's 24-hour outage number handy. Do you have a light bulb magnet with the Co-op's 1-800-927-5685 stuck to your refrigerator? If you need a new magnet just give us a call or enter MCPA's 24-hour outage number into your cell phone.
2. Make certain the Co-op has your current home or cell phone number listed in the upper right hand corner of your electric bill. If you have disconnected from your land line it is especially important we have an active cell number to communicate with you. It also makes outage reporting faster if your number is in our data base.
3. Have your emergency kit ready.
4. Consider installing an automatic home stand-by generator from McLeod Co-op Power. It will eliminate most of the difficulties and inconveniences when a power outage happens.

Automatic stand-by generator systems to be offered by McLeod Co-op Power

No one wants to be bailing water out of a flooded basement or throwing away a freezer full of spoiled food following a big storm. No farmer should have to worry about his livestock not getting watered during a long power outage. And snowbirds don't want to worry about their house freezing up when a blizzard or ice storm knocks out power. These are all reasons why the Co-op would like to help members install a Briggs & Stratton automatic stand-by generator system. There are a lot of MCPA members that could benefit from installing a stand-by generator for their home, farm or

business, that will operate automatically even when they are not there.

Hundreds of MCPA members told us on the 2016 survey that they would be interested in the Co-op offering generator back-up systems. Some members at April's annual meeting asked when the Co-op would be getting into a new diversified service. Now I can tell you that McLeod Co-op Power has been working on a turnkey generator program that will allow us to help our members properly size, purchase, install, and maintain a Briggs & Stratton stand-by generator. A start-to-finish program that will offer single-phase and three-phase generator systems, from 8 kW up to 200 kW in capacity.

The Co-op is very happy to be partnering with Briggs & Stratton, a trusted name in generators that has been manufacturing their generators in the U.S. for more than 100 years. The residential units, which are manufactured in Milwaukee, WI, come with a five-year warranty and are one of the quietest home generators on the market. We are especially pleased that each installation will be wired safely with the proper disconnect to protect our lineman from any unintended power flowing back out onto the lines they are trying to repair.

Please call or stop by the Co-op for more information.

Local Control

In my November 2016 column, I initiated the discussion of local control. I reminded myself and our members that we are guided by Cooperative Principles, the second of which is Democratic Member Control. Simply put, the second principle means you, as member-owners, control McLeod Co-op Power through your elected Board of Directors.

The discussion was initiated because McLeod Power and other electric cooperatives were concerned the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) was

investigating a distributed generation grid access fee that was made possible by the Minnesota Legislature in 2015 through a change to the net metering statute. The fee collects the additional fixed cost of serving distributed generation (DG) members. The additional fee insures both DG members and non-DG members are charged fairly for the electric infrastructure necessary to serve all members.

Regulation by both our local democratically elected Board and the PUC is duplicative and expensive. When a challenge to the Co-op is brought before the PUC, the Co-op must pay the cost to defend the challenge, but also the costs of the PUC staff to investigate the challenge. This can turn into tens of thousands of dollars.

To resolve this issue, electric cooperatives across the state worked through our state organization, Minnesota Rural Electric Association to submit legislation to reduce duplicative regulation. The legislation was approved by both the legislature and the Governor. This is the same local control municipal utilities have had for decades.

We firmly believe our local control allows us to respond to the needs of our members, whether through community focused rates or innovative programs that help our members keep costs down.

We would like to hear from our members as we take up the issue of adopting the local control legislation at the August Board meeting. Elsewhere in this newsletter, please see the ways available for you to make your opinion heard by your Board of Directors.

Member participation is key to your electric Cooperative's success.

Proud to keep the lights on,
Carrie

Board of Directors

District 1 - Oria Brinkmeier

Hollywood Twp. in Carver Co., Winsted Twp. in McLeod Co., Victor, Woodland, & Franklin Twps. in Wright Co.

District 2 - Joe Griebie, Vice President

Hassan Valley, Sumter & Rich Valley Twps. in McLeod Co.

District 3 - David Resch

Bergen, Helen, & Glencoe Twps. in McLeod Co.

District 4 - Doug Kirtz, Secretary-Treasurer

Boon Lake, Brookfield, Osceola, Kingman, Preston Lake, Hector, Melville, Bird Island, Palmyra, & Norfolk Twps. in Renville Co. & East Lake Lillian Twp. in Kandiyohi Co.

District 5 - Allan Duesterhoeft

Lynn & Acoma Twps. in McLeod Co. & Ellsworth Twp. in Meeker Co.

District 6 - Gary Burdorf

Penn Twp. in McLeod Co, New Auburn, Green Isle, Dryden & Arlington Twps. in Sibley Co.

District 7 - Randy Hlavka, GRE Representative

Hutchinson & Hale Twps. in McLeod Co., Collinwood Twp. in Meeker Co.

District 8 - Keith Peterson, President

Collins & Round Grove Twps. in McLeod Co, Martinsburg, Bandon, & Wellington Twps. in Renville Co., Grafton, Moltke, Bismarck, Transit, & Alfsborg Twps. in Sibley Co.

District 9 - Gerald Roepke,

Asst. Secretary-Treasurer

Watertown, Camden, & Young America Twps. in Carver County

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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 shown.

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Tidbits for history buffs

Where did McLeod Co-op Power get electric generation from in the early years?

A huge diesel generator was installed at the Hutchinson Municipal Plant which served the Cooperative with power. In 1936 the Hutchinson Municipal was buying three 450 horsepower generators and they increased that order to three 625 horsepower generators to accommodate McLeod Cooperative Power being their new wholesale power customer. On May 22, 1937, they started supplying MCPA with energy. The first day's load on our lines was 60 kWh and the peak was about five kW. It was not until 1938 that the peak exceeded the 500 kW limit in the contract, but long before this it was apparent that the load would grow rapidly. In May of 1938, the plant purchased a 1,500 horsepower engine and generator unit. It was the largest that could fit into the original building. By December 1940 the Co-op's peak had reached 960 kW demand. Early in 1940 the Cooperative's officers negotiated a ten-year extension of our contract with the Light and Power Commission.

Plans were immediately started by the City for an addition to the plant sufficient to house three large units, and purchased the first of these. Such is the largest diesel engine in this part of the country, having

a capacity of 3,060 horsepower. It is 40 feet long and more than 13 feet tall. At the rated load of 2,140 kW, the engine will consume about three barrels of fuel oil per hour and one gallon of lubricating oil. As of January 1942, the output to Co-op lines has frequently exceeded 10,000 kilowatt hours in a single day with peaks in excess of 1,000 kW.

As early as 1945, MCPA consumption approached that of its supplier, Hutchinson Municipal. "Shortage of power was getting to be a problem," Art Sprengeler, who served on the board from 1944 to 1953, observed. An appeal was made to reduce peak loads. Demand was so great during milking times that the power would be knocked out. A power-rationing system, in which farmers rotated milking times, solved the problem until some farmers did not adhere to their designated time and the line would go out again. In early 1947, members' efforts to reduce the peak, kept the system's demand level at 2740 kW, which otherwise would have exceeded the plant's 3,300 kW capacity. This situation was alleviated May 2, 1947, when the Winthrop substation was energized, allowing MCPA to obtain power from a second source, Northern States Power.



About 50 members, guests and staff travelled to Minneapolis for the 12:10 PM Twins baseball game. The longest rain delay in Minnesota Twins history ensued. After many hours waiting around in the rain, the group of hearty fans came back home before the game finally started. Fortunately, ticket holders can exchange their tickets for a different game later in the season.

What you need to know before installing a programmable thermostat

If you are considering replacing your home's thermostat for heating and cooling — whether it is a smart thermostat or a programmable thermostat that allows you to have setbacks — please make sure to have a conversation with a technician at your electric co-op or with your heating and cooling contractor first. Your home's comfort and efficiency could be compromised unknowingly in your efforts to install what you have heard is a great energy efficiency tool.



While setback thermostats are generally known for saving energy, there are some heating and cooling systems that do not work well using programmable setbacks. It is very likely you may not get the energy savings you hoped for when using a setback stat on heat pumps, in-floor or steam heating, electric plenum heaters and boilers, and some high efficiency gas furnaces.

Most energy experts do not recommend thermostat setbacks for houses that are running heat pumps. Setting back the thermostat on these systems can cause the heat pump to run inefficiently, cancelling out any benefits previously achieved. Electric plenum heaters, boilers and even some high efficiency gas units run at a lower operating temperature for a longer run-time to attain high efficiencies. Trying to operate these systems with a setback thermostat could result in higher operating costs and decreased comfort in the home.

Setbacks are also more difficult for houses with in-floor or steam heating. The difficulties with these systems is their slow response time. Reaching the desired temperature with these systems may take several hours.

Members with questions on whether their system is compatible with using thermostat setbacks can call the energy experts at McLeod Co-op Power. Especially members participating in cycled cooling, Dual Fuel or heat storage control programs are encouraged to have a conversation with the Co-op before programming in setbacks to their thermostat.



Crow River Winery is located on Highway 7 east of Hutchinson. The 29,000 sq. ft. building can accommodate hundreds of guests. It has multiple dining rooms and meeting rooms for different size events.

Crow River Winery is so much more than growing grapes and making wine.

It has become a community hub where people gather to enjoy life.

Ties to the Hutchinson community brought Mike and Valerie McBrady back to see if their family farms could be economically viable. Their dream and vision has evolved into a 29,000 square foot winery and event center that brings people from all over together to share good wine, good food, and memorable activities. Crow River Winery has become the site for unique activities including corn mazes, pumpkin launching, grape stomping, outdoor yoga, wine tasting, winery tours, musical entertainment, bike and running events, corporate meetings, and of course, weddings.



Mike McBrady, owner of Crow River Winery, explained the timeline of important events for his family and their winery.

They attained their dream of sustainable farming with grape vines, garlic and pumpkins, instead of the standard corn and soybeans. They grew their vision into a gathering place to bring the community together for special events.

“The winery and growing vines are a long-term idea,” said owner Mike McBrady. “The reason we called it Crow River Winery, and not McBrady Winery, is that we built it for the community and future generations,” he confirmed.

Today, the entire McBrady family, including children and grandchildren, are proprietors of Crow River Winery. They operate the business with the help of a dozen full-time and 12-18 part-time employees. During the two to three-week grape harvest an additional 15-20 people are employed. The winery has volunteers, too. The McBrady family and their community of employees are now taking on added responsibilities since they lost Valerie to cancer earlier this year. She had been such an

integral part of the family’s vision and the operation of the business.

Mike had grown up on a farm north of the winery location. Valerie grew up on the Prieve family farm west of Hutchinson. They were high school sweethearts who married, moved to a Twin Cities suburb, raised their family, ran businesses, and did volunteer work.

In about 2000, Valerie got her family’s farm back. She and Mike were planning to plant an apple orchard on the farm. While working with the University of Minnesota (U of M) horticulturists on apples, they learned about wine grape technology. Mike and his brother both enjoyed home wine making and thought maybe they should plant some vines. In 2007, they planted two sections of grape vines on the McBrady farm.

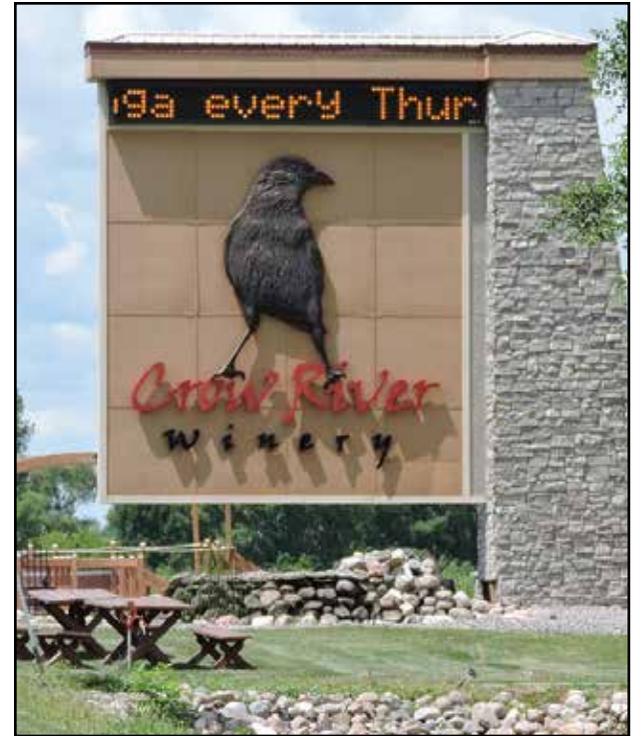
They started thinking about a small-scale winery at the Prieve farm site. About that time, the property of a landscape contractor (the current winery building) became available. In April of 2010 the McBrady’s purchased the building. Their dream of a winery now had potential for greater things, including an event center venue.

In 2010, Lucas Gilhousen was hired as assistant winemaker. Lucas helped with renovation of the building. They opened-up the building, replaced garage doors, reframed and refinished the wine production area and loading dock by day, and they did the wine making after-hours. The McBrady farm had their first production harvest in the fall of 2010. In 2011, they finished the tasting room and started on construction/renovation of the event center.

They sold 62 wedding couples on the hope, dream, and promise that the event center would be ready by spring



of 2012, in time for their weddings. They had to share



The winery sign is cemented into the foundation of the farmhouse which was previously on the property.



An outdoor patio with a fountain and outdoor venue area are used to host many wedding events.

the vision of what the place would look like in a year to get the brides to agree. Crow River Winery officially opened as an event center in 2012 and has been the site of hundreds of weddings since.

After purchasing the initial 12-acre property, the McBrady’s bought additional farmland around the winery from the Fratzke family to expand the layout, vineyard and pumpkin patch.

“Renovating the building has never stopped,” said employee Lucas Gilhousen. “We have refinished all the wood floors and last winter we built a second tasting room upstairs,” continued Gilhousen. They recently opened “The Bistro,” a kitchen which serves artisan appetizers and signature pizzas during select hours Thursday through Sunday.

In June, Crow River Winery planted 1,073 grape vines

just east of the winery. They are the latest variety of cold

climate white grape from the U of M, called “Itasca.” These grape vines will be cluster-pruned to produce healthy vines. “It will be four and a half years before their grapes will be used to produce wine. The extra time gives you a better plant and eventually a better wine,” said Gilhousen.

The winery produces dozens of unique, handcrafted wines made in Minnesota from cold climate grapes, fruit, and berries. Some favorites are cranberry, Honey Crisp apple, or strawberry rhubarb. There is the Apiary variety, a honey sweet red wine made with honey from a local bee colony.

Many visitors stop by to try five wine samples for \$5. There are several slates of varieties available to try. Some visitors follow that up with a tour of the wine making facilities and education on the process used to make that favorite wine variety that they just discovered during taste testing.

The winery produces over 5,000 cases of wine a year on its 30 acres of vines. Crow River Winery brand wines are sold at the winery and at more than 50 retail liquor stores and restaurants across Minnesota. The winery staff takes inventory once each month, counting every single wine bottle of the 45,000-50,000 bottles on site. It takes them about two or three hours to count the inventory.

Grapes are currently harvested from four vineyards. Winemakers sample small groups of grapes to determine when they are ready to pick. Taste of the grapes and how the seeds break between your teeth were methods described by the assistant winemaker to know when it is time to harvest.

The process begins with removing stems from the grapes. Then grapes are crushed or pressed. Only the juice is



A second Tasting Room was added upstairs recently at Crow River Winery.

used for making white wine, but red wine uses the skin and all. Wine will sit for a day or two before going to the cooling tank, which utilizes a glycol chiller like is used in a dairy operation. The process brings the wine down to 28 degrees. After the fermentation, chilling and aging processes are complete, the wine is bottled.

The winery also makes a roasted and smoked hard neck garlic wine for cooking or salads. They plant an acre-and-a-half plot with 50,000 garlic bulbs each fall. They harvest the garlic about the third weekend of July. They discovered just pressing the garlic does not make a good wine. They have perfected a process of roasting the garlic with charcoal and applewood smoke. Then it is crushed, tanked and fermented.

“Roasting works wonderfully,” said assistant winemaker Gilhousen. Prior to coming to Crow River Winery, he worked as a butcher. And he is a foodie that loves cooking and grilling. He said, “The winery is about hanging out with good people and having good wine and food. I like helping to bring these all together. It makes it



Long-time employee Lucas Gilhousen explained the machines used for crushing and removing grape stems and the larger wine press which can hold 2.5 tons of grapes.



Wine is cooled in the Aging Room. It is important to keep the wines at a consistent temperature.

a very special place to work.”

This summer, local yoga enthusiasts gather on Thursdays for yoga instruction outdoors at the winery, followed by a glass of wine. On June 10th over 300 bike riders participated in various 12 to 75-mile bike rides sponsored by the Hutchinson Rotary. Races began and ended at the Crow River Winery. Another wellness event the Crow River Winery partners with is the Luce Line LaceUp in mid-September, which has 5K, 10K, and half-marathon runs.

August 11 will be Dine in the Vines. Guests who purchase tickets can dine outdoors in the vineyard during sunset, with Chef Craig serving a menu of locally-grown foods. There is wine, beer and live music. A portion of the event helps support sustainable farming initiatives in the county. Everyone who purchases a ticket to Dine in the Vines gets a ticket to attend the garlic festival.

September 23 is the annual grape stomping competition, which is a theatrical event that attracts repeat customers year after year. “We don’t make wine with foot-stomped grapes,” explained McBrady. It is a competition to see which team can stomp the most juice from ten gallons of grapes. It is a bit messy but people have a lot of fun.

The winery had its first corn maze in 2016. This year they hope to run the corn maze September 22 through the end of October, with additional offerings like staying open extra late for the corn maze under a full moon and a spooky maze for Halloween. The corn maze is designed more as an adult corn maze than a kid maze. It has multiple entrances and adult refreshments available. However, there is a bouncy house for the kids and a patch for picking pumpkins.

Pumpkinfest includes the opportunity to buy a pumpkin and for \$5 have it launched off one of two trebuchets (catapults). Guests watch their pumpkin get thrown 400-500 feet by the larger trebuchet or 200-240 feet like a low-flying fast-pitch from the guillotine trebuchet. Sundays from 2-5 p.m. there is music at the winery. Special music events happen on St. Patty’s Day and New



The fermentation tanks are used to produce the various wines. The wine is also cooled in the tanks to 28 degrees (but it does not actually freeze). The cooling system is similar to a bulk tank cooling system used in a dairy operation.

Year’s Eve too.

The winery is rented for many bridal showers, class reunions, company banquets, and weddings each year. Chelsey, the facility’s wedding planner, covers every detail with the couple and their family. Most weddings they host are 250-300 guests but Crow River Winery has multiple banquet rooms and can accommodate up to 400 guests. Some weddings are indoors and some are outdoors. A few have even been in the rain.

Keith and Nicole, the first couple to ever be married at Crow River Winery, come back every year on their anniversary. “They have become part of the winery family” commented McBrady. “They like watching the vineyards get bigger each year,” he added.

When asked to reflect on the development of the winery, McBrady said, “It has been an easy project. Everyone local has been very accommodating. The U of M, neighboring wineries, the community, and everyone who works here has been just excellent to work with.”

The McBrady’s have worked with the Co-op on off-peak programs and service upgrades to make sure they had the power required for their growing facility. We look forward to helping them with energy efficiency projects and new technologies in the future.

During the 2010-11 construction, the winery installed off-peak heating and cooling programs. The tasting room and production room each have heat in the floor to keep room temperature consistent for making wine. They have several electric boilers on the Co-op’s Dual Fuel program that provide low-cost heat at off-peak rates. The system has a propane forced air backup available for control times.

McBrady noted, “It provides a nice, easy heating of the floor in the production room.”

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MCPA youth tour representative McKaia Ryberg of Buffalo Lake, attended the National Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington D.C. in June. Pictured is the Minnesota delegation of students, representing co-ops from across the state.

Notice to Cogenerators

In compliance with Minnesota Rules Relating to Cogeneration and Small Power Production, Chapter 7835, McLeod Cooperative Power Association is required to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers that satisfy the conditions of a qualifying facility. McLeod Cooperative Power will provide free information to all interested members regarding rates

and interconnection requirements. An interconnection application is required and subject to approval from the cooperative before a qualifying facility interconnects and operates in parallel with the cooperative's distribution system. Any disputes over interconnections, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. For more details, visit www.mcleodcoop.com or call Sue Pawelk at 1-800-494-6272.

May Outage Summary

There were 49 outages in May. Twelve were caused by machinery or vehicle accidents. Ten were scheduled service upgrades. These were the most frequent causes of outage during May.

The two outages affecting the most consumers were due to trees in the line southwest of Hutchinson on May 17 at 5:56 p.m. which affected 84 members and lasted one hour and 25 minutes and an outage cause by machinery/vehicle on May 13 that knocked out power to 70 members north of Winthrop for two hours.

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.

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 July 28 to be included in the August 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

For Sale Miscellaneous

- Old Sad irons collection. 320-587-4550
- Surround sound system w/5 speakers/DVD player. New condition. 507-351-1855
- 55 gallon steel drums w/removable lids. \$15/each. 952-353-2351
- 2009 Crown Victoria police interceptor, 103,000 miles. 952-353-2351
- 2003 Sea-Doo GTI PWC w/trailer, 3 seat. \$3,700. 507-227-1787

- Otter Island swim raft w/2 ladders. \$1,000. 507-227-1787
- Hewitt 1500lbs PWC boat lift. \$800. 507-227-1787

For Sale Farm

- John Deere Model A parts. 952-353-2286
- Symplex drinking cups. 952-353-2286
- JD tractor 60 model, 3 pt, new tires/paint, runs good. Make offer. 320-327-2577

- Allied grain auger 7in X 51ft. \$400. 320-833-2258
- H & S 6ft X 10ft stock trailer w/license & loading ram. 320-587-7746
- 2 thrower racks. 320-562-2424
- 8in X 45ft auger. 320-562-2424

Give Away

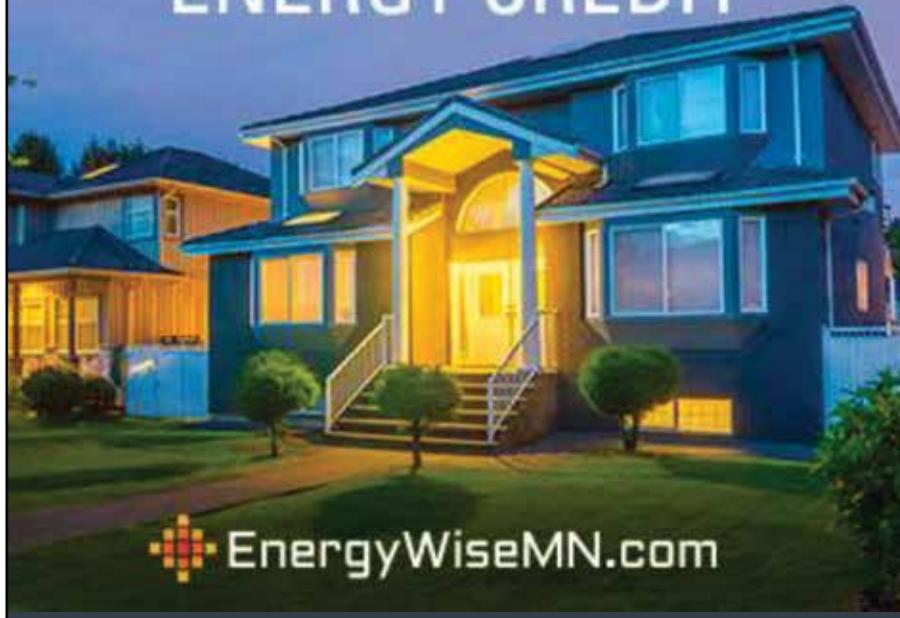
- All size truck tires. Good tie downs. 320-587-6301
- Farm cats. 320-587-4550

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.

ENTER FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A

\$500

ENERGY CREDIT



Visit www.EnergyWiseMN.com to register for sweepstakes.

Click on Explore, then Promotions, and then Efficient Lighting tabs to take a short lighting quiz or register for the sweepstakes.

Great River Energy, the Co-op's wholesale power supplier, sponsors this contest for the 28 co-ops and their member owners. See if you can win! The contest runs until August 31, 2017.

Two web resources for the electric vehicle shopper

mncharging.org and evsalespro.com. are two great sites to check out

We interviewed several EV experts, utility staff, and EV sales personnel to learn more.

First, to learn more about mncharging.org, we reached out to Jukka Kukkonen, founder of PlugInConnect, LLC. Jukka, shared a little about this new tool.

Jukka said, "The mncharging.org webpage provides an easy way for people to find their local electric utility's resources for EVs. They just pick their utility from a drop-down list and are immediately directed to the utility's webpage on the topic."

The purchase of an electric vehicle is not an event, it is a transition process with many steps, requiring buyers to obtain information from multiple stakeholders. Auto dealers are experts on the vehicles and sales process, but they don't have expertise in the general household electric system - not to mention the grid side of things. This is where electric utilities come in. Utilities are experts in household energy and the electrification of transportation provides them an opportunity to become experts in transportation energy, too.

mncharging.org has received very positive reviews. People like that they have easy access to utility resources, dealers like that it makes their life easier, and utilities are happy to help their customers shift to driving electric. mncharging.org is produced by Fresh Energy and PlugInConnect with funding from Great River Energy and Minnesota Power.

It seems like there are now more programs across the state where you can charge your electric vehicle (EV) with renewable energy. Is that true?



Jukka Kukkonen explained, "This is clearly another advantage that EVs provide, the freedom to choose how your energy for driving is produced. With traditional internal combustion technology we are addicted to oil, but electricity can be produced from renewable sources, and increasingly is in Minnesota. You can naturally put solar panels on your roof, but many utility companies are providing renewable energy programs for their customers, so make sure to check those out, too. I think that the best example is Great River Energy's Revolt program where they provide renewable energy for EV drivers for no extra cost."

More and more, car dealers are knowledgeable about electric vehicles. evsalespro.com helps people find dealers who really know the ins and outs about EVs.

Jukka Kukkonen shares more about evsalespro.com, "Since it is still early in the growth of the EV market in Minnesota, the knowledge level of salespeople varies quite a bit. We wanted to make sure that we direct potential buyers to the most knowledgeable salespeople, so we set up the evsalespro.com webpage. Then we asked Minnesota Plug-in Vehicle Owners to provide their recommendations, and based on their input, we listed the best salespeople there."

2017 RESIDENTIAL REBATES		ENERGY STAR SWIMMING POOL	WATER HEATERS
<i>A summary of rebates available from your co-op this year*</i>		Air Source Heat Pump Pool Heater \$400	Electric Storage Water Heating Program \$400
ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES		Variable Speed Pump \$200	<small>*This is a residential summary only. The Co-op also offers agricultural, commercial and industrial custom rebates. There is a \$2,000 maximum rebate per member per year. Only ETS space heating does not have a \$2,000 maximum cap. All rebates are on a first come, first serve basis, so please turn in your paperwork promptly.</small>
Dehumidifier	\$25	ENERGY STAR LIGHTING	<small>Most downloadable rebate forms are available on the Co-op website at www.mcleodcoop.com (click on Customer Service tab). Please read the details on specific rebate forms, as some products have limits, require ENERGY STAR certification, or other requirements.</small>
Electric Clothes Dryer	\$75	LED Yard Light.....	
RECYCLING		LED Holiday Light Strings, (limit 10)	
Old Freezer or Refrigerator.....	\$75	LED Light Bulbs, (limit 10)	
(proof of recycling required)		HVAC	
CONSERVATION		Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Space Heating.....	
Electric Vehicle Charging Station	Up to \$500	14.5 SEER Air Source Heat Pump.....	
towards installation & equipment		15 SEER Air Source Heat Pump.....	
		16 SEER or higher Air Source Heat Pump	
		Ductless Air Source Heat Pump (delivered fuels)	
		Ductless Air Source Heat Pump (primary electric heat)\$500	
		Ground Source Heat Pump.....	
		ECM (fan motor)	
			<small>Air Source Heat Pump rebate forms must be completed by the installing contractor. Rebates for high efficiency air source heat pumps require installation by a "registered contractor" which has been designated as a quality installer and is listed on the hvacrededucation.net web site. A list of all "registered contractors" in Minnesota is on our cooperative website at www.mcleodcoop.com (click on About Us tab and then Our Partners tab). There are no rebates on central air conditioners. The Cooperative encourages any member replacing their central air conditioner to upgrade to an ENERGY STAR rated air source heat pump. LED yard lights must be installed on consumer-owned building or facilities. Lights cannot be installed on Co-op power poles.</small>



Straight-line winds on June 11 snapped off many power poles along one stretch of roadway, leaving the tops of poles in a farm field and conductors blocking one member's driveway.



MCPA line personnel carefully guide large 3-phase pole into new hole that was dug after snapped off pole was removed.



MCPA linemen make repairs to auger before work of digging a new hole can begin. Linemen have to use mechanical skills daily for assembling hardware and mounting it on crossarms, mounting crossarms onto poles, and making equipment repairs of all kinds.



A MCPA line worker in the bucket puts the second conductor of a 3-phase line back up near Buffalo Lake.

Expect a slightly higher bill this month

Summer residential energy rates are about one penny higher per kWh than the rest of the year. June, July, and August energy use is billed at 13.01 cents per kWh. The other nine months of the year the rate is 11.99 cents per kWh. The bill members receive in mid-July is for energy used during the month of June.

Summer rates are higher because of increased demand on the hottest days. McLeod Co-op Power pays more for wholesale power in the summer, which is why members pay more for energy used during June, July and August.

There is also a power cost adjustment (PCA) of \$0.00240 applied to electric bills members receive this month. The PCA varies monthly depending upon wholesale power costs. This month's PCA is higher than what it was on bills mailed last month.

Members participating in the Co-op's off-peak programs, especially the Cycled Cooling Program, are able to reduce what they pay for energy each month. For example, if your water heater and air conditioner or heat pump are on the off-peak rate, you are only paying 5.88 cents per kWh for all your summer water heating and home cooling. Off-peak makes for a much lower summer electric bill. Call the Co-op's energy experts today to get signed up for off-peak programs. When you are on the Cycled Air Program you can run your air conditioner a lot more and have it cost a lot less!

June 11 Storm Damage

On June 11, McLeod Co-op Power had over 970 members in 26 townships with power outages thanks to a Sunday morning thunderstorm. Co-op line crews worked all day and into the night to get everyone back on. By midnight all outages were restored.

The severe thunderstorm caused many power outages in four counties due to trees or branches in power lines or lightning strikes. Strong winds were to blame for snapping off 14 power poles east of Buffalo Lake in Renville County. A power line owned by McLeod Co-op Power had 11 power poles damaged by wind south of US Highway 212 on 546th Street and another three power poles on Co. Rd. 56 north of US Highway 212 from the straight-line winds.

Crews rerouted power and electricity was restored to everyone in the area on Sunday except for one farm, which ran on temporary generation for a day or two. New poles were installed and the 3-phase line rebuilt north of Hwy. 212 near Buffalo Lake on Sunday (see photos). The line south of the Preston Lake Substation was rebuilt later that week.



Farmfest 2016 – August 1, 2, 3! Gilfillan Estate in Redwood County, MN

THE Largest Outdoor Agricultural Event in Minnesota!

As a trusted resource with 36 years of proven credibility, Farmfest connects industry leading manufacturers/providers with decision making producers. Farmfest strives to provide both the traditional programs that bring attendees back year after year while also offering new dynamic events and programs which are designed both to entertain and entice new attendees. Visit the Co-op booth #2301 in the Ag tent.

- Connects 35,000+ attendees with over 625 local and leading companies in the farming industry.
- Features highly topical educational and political forums highlighting topics relevant to the issues that face today's farmers.
- Presents successful field demonstrations which feature the latest technological advancements in the farming industry.
- Offers programs and entertainment for the family.

Visit us at Farmfest 2017 as we promote the future of energy, along with other Touchstone Energy Cooperatives from Minnesota.

Emerging technologies make it easier to save energy and be aware of your energy use.

Bring this coupon to booth #2301 in the Ag Tent on Aug. 1-3 to receive a FREE LED bulb.*



* MUST HAVE COUPON. SORRY, NO EXCEPTIONS.

Bring in your coupon for a free LED light bulb. Limit one coupon per person and no duplicate or reproduced coupons accepted.

