

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

September 2018

Overwhelming response depletes 2018 rebate funds

Due to the large volume of rebate applications received, all available funds for 2018 rebates have been used. This includes rebates for ENERGY STAR appliances, load management programs and commercial/farm energy or lighting grants.

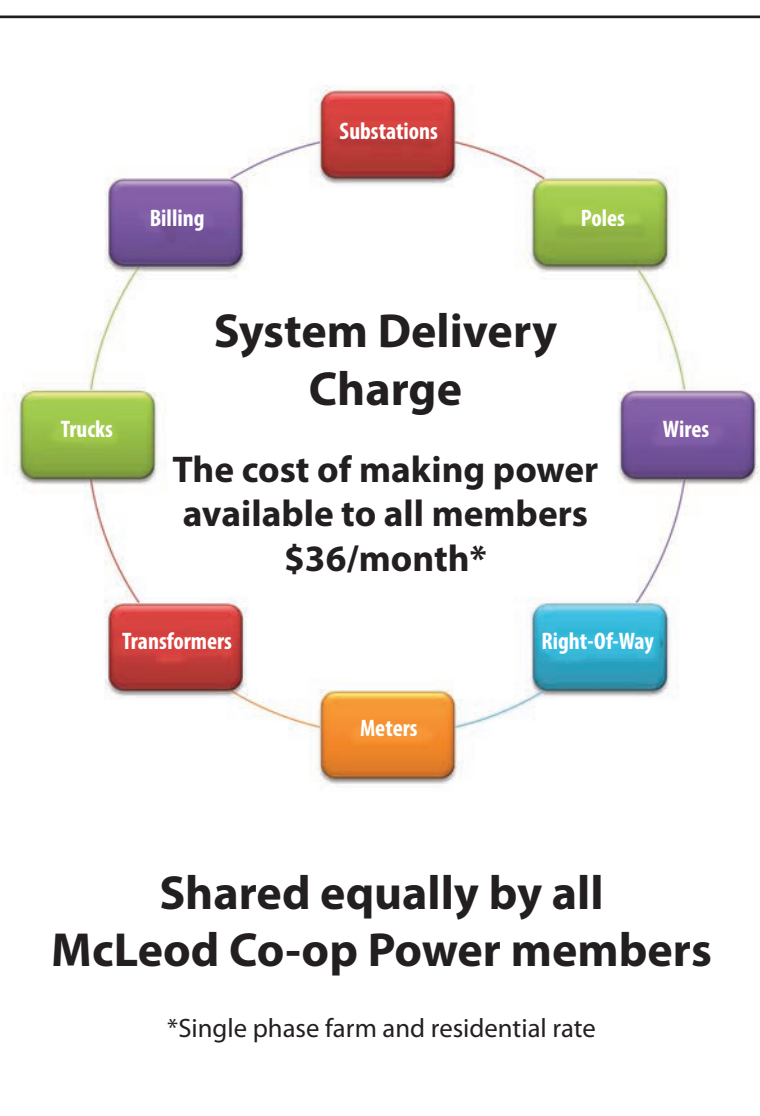
This situation of running out of money early in the year is why the Co-op markets all rebates as being given on a first come, first serve basis, while supply lasts. It is why we encourage members to submit their paperwork promptly. It is also why the Co-op utilizes a maximum dollar limit per consumer per year — so we can

share available rebate funds with more consumers.



The Co-op was able to process all rebate requests received through July 31, 2018. Any rebate request received after this date did not receive funding.

We sympathize with any members who were hoping to utilize a rebate yet in 2018, however, we remind consumers that most ENERGY STAR appliances or heat pump installations provide significant energy savings and will cost you less to operate, so they are a worthwhile investment even without a rebate.



Meet the people behind your power

Our commitment to you is simple:
providing exceptional customer
service is our number-one job.

For you, this means we're here all day,
every day, providing safe, reliable
electricity regardless of the weather.

Craig Marti, Line Foreman

Nathan Kelzer, Lineman

Jared Klein, Lineman



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Co-op awards two scholarships to Ridgewater College students

The Ridgewater College Foundation has awarded two \$500 scholarships from McLeod Co-op Power to students Nathaniel Erickson and Grace Wille for the fall semester 2018. Each year the Co-op donates \$1,000 from its unclaimed capital credit fund to be used by the Ridgewater College Foundation for scholarships for local students furthering their education.

Nathaniel Erickson lives in Hutchinson and is studying on the Hutchinson campus to be an electrician. Grace Wille is a 2018 graduate of Waconia High School. She is in the pre-nursing program on the Willmar campus. Congratulations.

Standby generator program

Severe weather can impact the Co-op's service to the membership. Sometimes even non-weather events can cause an outage. It is a reminder to members of how daily routines are inconveniently changed when the power goes out.

We have heard from some members that an automatic generator would be a handy tool to have as a backup in an untimely power outage. An automatic generator standby system would end the angst about whether one should make the effort to hook up, fuel up, and start up the portable generator or wait a little while longer to see if the power comes back on. It would be handier than a portable generator and a huge improvement over no generator at all.

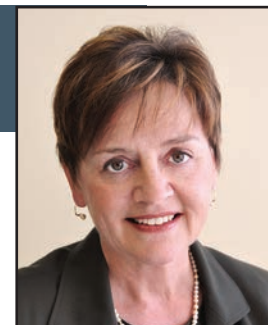
This is one of the reasons that McLeod Co-op Power is now selling and installing

12 kW to 200 kW automatic generator systems. There is a need for homeowners who want the ease and convenience of an automatic system. There is also a critical need for farmers or hobby farmers who have livestock that need water or ventilation when the power is out.

The Co-op is making available automatic generator systems from Briggs and Stratton, a century old American company that manufactures its generators in Wisconsin. Residential systems are powered by propane or natural gas.

The Co-op is available to meet with interested members and provide a quote upon the size of generator needed. Call the Co-op at 320-864-3148 or 1-800-494-6272 to get more information if you are interested in an automatic backup.

Manager's Message — by Carrie L. Buckley, General Manager



Happy Fall!

Since last month's decision to proceed with replacing and combining our facilities at one location we have been busy planning!

Our project team met with our General Contractor, Adolphson & Peterson and our Architect to define how to go forward. We have been working with Adolphson & Peterson for over two years after they were competitively selected to prepare and proceed with our Master Facility Plan. They were selected because they have an in-state presence, and because they will bid out the subcontractor portions with an emphasis on attracting local contractors.

Construction timing

In order to allow adequate time for good planning, it is likely the facility will be a "Spring Start" in 2019. Initially, we had hopes of enclosing it before this winter, but that timing wouldn't have allowed for facility tours and other essential input. It's a lot less expensive to have a well thought out plan ahead of time, than it is to change our mind about an aspect after it's built and to delay or change construction to accommodate our needs. With a spring 2019

construction start, we will probably look at occupying the facility around July of 2020.

Facility tours

As we talked to other electric co-ops who have replaced their facilities in the last decade, their #1 piece of advice was to tour other facilities to pick up ideas of what would work for us and more importantly, what might not work for us. A group of employees, board directors, and our project team visited three co-ops over two days. We came away with a lot of input from our group which represented all functions of the Co-op. Throughout the tours we looked for efficient layout of work space and most importantly, how we could best solve our highest priority need for adequate covered storage for our bucket trucks and fleet vehicles.

As always, feel free to call or stop by with your questions or comments.

Proud to keep your lights on, Carrie



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All member story ideas and comments are welcome.
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McLeod Cooperative Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Playing together to raise funds for Minnesota burn centers

On July 27, a group of 224 golfers gathered at Pebble Creek Golf Club in Becker, Minn. for the MREA Burn Center Benefit Golf Tournament to raise support for Minnesota's three Burn Centers: Essential Health Miller-Dwan Burn Center in Duluth, Hennepin County Medical Center Burn Unit in Minneapolis, and Regions Hospital Burn Center in St. Paul. The fabulous turnout featured 47 electric co-ops, which included all of Minnesota's 44 distribution co-ops, 30 utility vendor companies, and staff from four hospitals. All donated, sponsored or golfed.

McLeod Co-op Power had three of its employees take vacation days and volunteer to golf in the tourney. The Co-op also sponsored one hole for the tourney and employees donated change for a cash donation to the project.

McLeod Co-op Power is very thankful to have the burn centers available and considers our organization blessed to never have had a serious electrical contact accident where we needed to utilize their services. Our linemen know of many individuals from other co-ops, utilities, or powerline contractors that have needed their expertise. It is a constant safety concern that is close to the heart of every employee.

The locally owned electric co-ops, established to provide affordable electric service across rural America, operate the largest distribution network

in the state, with more than 148,000 miles of electric distribution lines. Just like the connections the co-op workers make for their members on the electric grid, this group is very interconnected. Their membership with the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) brings cohesiveness to their affiliations along with the mutual aid services they share to get the lights back on after Minnesota's blizzards, strong winds and tornadoes.

Each year, MREA's 124 vendor members are invited to participate in the event. These vendors sell everything from fire resistant clothing, transformers, poles and wires to construction and engineering services needed to maintain the grid. They bring in thousands of dollars to the event to raise money for the burn centers. By bringing these organizations together with a united purpose, the benefit brought in \$58,386. After expenses each Burn Center will receive \$13,877.67.

The proceeds were outstanding but the cause is most important. Minnesota's burn centers care for electric line workers if or when any of them are injured in an electrical contact accident.

During the award ceremony, Tom Hoxter, a line superintendent from Connexus Energy, gave a short testimony to their Co-op's need for the HCMC Burn Center. Standing beside him was Matt Stachowski, a golfer in the event, who had been injured in an almost fatal electrical accident in Becker 13 months



Co-op employees Ryan Schuette, Dan Schade, and Gregg Nistler golfed in the MREA benefit tournament to raise money for the MN Burn Centers. All three employees volunteered to play in the tourney on their own time. McLeod Co-op sponsored a hole and co-op employees donated change for a cash donation to the benefit.

prior. Hoxter said, "This event is very important and we appreciate everyone's participation. The doctors who took excellent care of Matt from the HCMC Burn Center golfed in the tournament today. We're grateful for the Burn Centers." Since its inception in 2006, the tournament has raised \$281,220.89.

Secretary of Energy visits Coal Creek Station, learns about benefits of energy park concept

Mclean County in North Dakota played host to political dignitaries Monday, Aug. 13, as U.S. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry toured Great River Energy's Coal Creek Station courtesy of an invitation from Rep. Kevin Cramer and Sen. John Hoeven.

While there, Perry learned about the energy park concept and how it is used to efficiently harness all available energy to create many products.

That includes generating electricity to power more than 600,000 homes, providing steam to the Blue Flint ethanol biorefinery, capturing fly ash for use in making concrete, utilizing a corn drying facility to improve the local market for corn and operating the DryFining fuel enhancement process to improve the efficiency of Coal Creek Station.

"Making our plants more efficient is a great way to reduce carbon dioxide emissions," said Rick Lancaster, Great River Energy's vice president and chief generation officer. "We did this in a big way when our engineers invented and then installed DryFining technology, our patented method of drying coal and reducing emissions of mercury, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and carbon dioxide."

Great River Energy's DryFining technology

increased Coal Creek Station's efficiency by 4 percent and reduced carbon dioxide emissions by the same percentage.

"The tour was a great opportunity to share the innovative work we are doing for our member-owner cooperatives," said Eric Olsen, Great River Energy vice president and general counsel. "Our DryFining technology holds vast potential to reduce emissions and costs at power plants around the world. The initial technology development was funded in part through the Department of Energy's Clean Coal Power Initiative."

Following the tour, Great River Energy officials discussed the importance of Department of Energy extending its refined coal tax credit program. This program expires at the end of 2019 for the DryFining fuel enhancement process at Coal Creek Station. An extension of the tax credit can help provide a bridge to the future as carbon capture technologies are developed for the U.S. coal-fueled generating fleet.

Perry also toured North American Coal's Falkirk Mine and participated in a roundtable with energy industry executives at the University of Mary where, according to The Bismarck Tribune, he said he was impressed with the synergy between agriculture and energy he saw during his



John Bauer (right), director, North Dakota generation at Great River Energy, gives a tour of Coal Creek Station to (left to right) Eric Olsen, vice president and general counsel for Great River Energy; Lt. Gov. Brent Sanford; Sen. John Hoeven; U.S. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry; Congressman Kevin Cramer; and Rick Lancaster, vice president and chief generation officer at Great River Energy.

tour, such as the steam from Coal Creek Station that is sold to the neighboring Blue Flint ethanol biorefinery.

He applauded North Dakota on its role in the "energy renaissance" as well.

"People sometimes think you have to pick between fossil fuels and renewables," Perry said at the roundtable. "North Dakota and Texas prove clearly that we're all-of-the above energy producers. We need the fossil fuels, we need the nuclear energy, we need the renewables that

wind and solar bring to the table, and how we manage that in our grid is really important."

Also according to The Bismarck Tribune, Perry said the most interesting thing from the tour was hearing about the research underway about the potential for the coal-fired power plant to use excess heat and carbon dioxide for a greenhouse to grow tomatoes.

"This was, for me, a really fascinating and interesting trip," he said during the roundtable.

Growing a better life

How three families use organic farming to nourish themselves and the wider community

Meet our Member Farmers:

Prairie Drifter Farm

Nick and Joan Olson of rural Litchfield, along with their children Abe and Freya, began their Prairie Drifter farm in 2010 on leased land before purchasing their current property near Litchfield.



Submitted photo

Prairie Drifter Farm offers more than thirty different organic vegetables from arugula to winter squash, plus eight different herbs, as well as melons.

Although neither Nick or Joan grew up on farms, they had an interest in the outdoors and the environment. They met working at Wolf Ridge Environmental Center in Finland, Minn. Joan had always wanted to do an internship on a farm. Following Wolf Ridge, Joan taught in California. Nick traveled and taught in Argentina and the couple travelled extensively throughout Central and South America, during which time they saw a lot of agricultural industry and methods.

Joan's interest in a farming internship was piqued, and she and Nick worked on a couple of farms. Upon returning from travels, Nick got his masters degree in education and Joan got her teaching license. These degrees have served them well as they have taught and mentored others about organic farming. Nick also works for Land Stewardship Project assisting other beginning farmers to successfully launch and sustain viable farm businesses while working to promote healthy soils and healthy rural communities.

York Farm



Submitted photo

York Farm, Hutchinson, owned by **Andy Cotter, Irene Genelin** and their daughter Ani, was in Andy's family since 1971. They have been producing certified organic fruit since 2009.

Avid travelers, Irene has visited 24 countries and Andy 30. Irene studied abroad and lived in France while in school. Andy is a mechanical engineer and works full time for General Mills from his home office.

Andy and Irene sell produce in CSA boxes, and to restaurants in the Twin Cities. Interestingly, they are both avid unicyclists and participate in various activities through a Twin Cities unicycling club. They also operate an Air BnB cottage on their farm for guests.

Interested in energy conservation, Andy and Irene have a super-efficient 4-ton ground source heat pump on dual fuel and cycled cooling programs, as well as baseboard heat and warm floors on dual fuel. They also have an 85-gallon Marathon water heater on control. All these programs allow the family to heat and cool at a nearly half-price electric rate. They also have a 30 kilowatt wind turbine that is interconnected with the Co-op.

Organic farming 101

Organic farming refers to farming that is done in a sustainable way, using natural methods of weed and pest control, while maintaining ecological balance, enhanced soil enrichment and nutrition. Organic farms must meet standards set by the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture).

Organic farms can usually be run on a small acreage. Because organic farms are prohibited from using chemical fertilizers and pest control, the land must also be free from these chemicals. Because Adam and Laura's farm had already been certified organic, there was less to get ready for them to begin their operation. For the others, there was more required.

"It takes at least three years for the land to be certified organic," said Andy. "

In addition to soil readiness, Andy and Irene's York Farm grows fruit, which can take 8-10 years before it's really producing. Even for vegetable

Loon Organics



Submitted photo

Adam Cullip and Laura Frerichs, along with sons Eli and Willie, own their certified organic farm near Hutchinson and have farmed for 14 years. Laura was an anthropology major in college, studying civilizations' first forays into agriculture. Although she had experience in public health and as a Spanish interpreter, she really longed for the outdoors and had a real interest in gardening. Adam's background is in science, chemistry and biology, with a graduate

degree in public health. He had an industrial engineering bent, but didn't relish the idea of working in an office.

They first got their start at Gardens of Eagan Incubator Farm before purchasing a 40-acre farm in 2008. An incubator farm has a dual purpose: to grow produce while also training other organic farmers to start their own farms.

Fortunately for Laura and Adam, the farm they purchased had already been run as an organic farm and they could begin almost immediately. They have since added 10,000 square feet of hoop houses, which allows them to extend their growing season from March to December. Laura is a well-known presenter at organic farming conferences, and she consults and serves on boards of ag advocacy organizations.

Adam is a self-proclaimed machine geek who has a passion for turning traditional small tractors into electric tractors. His passion for industrial design education gives him insight into designing and streamlining processes on the farm that lead to greater operational efficiency and improvement. He dreams of using his knowledge to benefit organic vegetable farming in the US and abroad.

Laura and Adam have their water heater on 8-hour peak shave control program, for which they receive a monthly credit.

farms, it can take awhile to get up and running and many farmers have to supplement their income while they purchase equipment and build their soil to produce enough.

"About 12 acres is a typical size of an organic farm," Andy said. Currently York Organics has 12 tilled acres, and about 6.5 acres in wetland management.

"For our business model, we had to have at least 7-10 acres of good land to grow vegetables," said Joan. "Our farm is 33 acres, but about eight acres are opened up for crops. It's wet on this farm, so there are areas we're not able to get into to plant vegetables."

Loon Organics has about eight acres in vegetables over 23 individual plots, and four acres in cover crops.

"We rotate our vegetables often to break any pest or disease cycle and to comply with organic regulations," Laura said. "Cover crops are planted to rest and feed the soil between crops."



An example of some of the produce you can find in a CSA share. Submitted photo

The use of cover crops not only gives the soil a break, but they add in valuable nutrients for the next crop of vegetables, since chemical fertilizers are not allowed on organic farms. Cover crops take nitrogen from the air and feed the soil. As an added bonus, pollinators like bees, and other beneficial insects, enjoy the cover crops, as well, especially buckwheat. Bees from neighboring Rusch Farms feed on the buckwheat and other pollinator plants, which produces honey for Rusch Farms and pollinates plants on the farm.

Prairie Drifter Farm and Loon Organics go a step further and plant pollinator strips on under-utilized land to encourage honey bees, squash bees, bumble bees, and other beneficial insects. Recommended pollinator plants include Echinacea, Mountain Mint, Solidago, Liatris, Blue Vervain and Wild Bergamot, for starters. Beneficial insects are a natural, non-chemical way to control pests.

Pest control on York Farm's fruit trees is a bit different.

"Organic approved sprays are not systemic, so they don't have the same punch as chemical sprays," said Andy. "They degrade in three hours in the sun. So we spray at night, let it do it's work, and shortly after sunrise, it degrades."

Organic farmers are intent on producing the best produce, while building and maintaining healthy soils and ecosystems, all of which will lead to a healthier lifestyle, not only for their families, but also for those who purchase what they produce.



By utilizing hoop houses, like this one at Loon Organics, the growing season is extended, creating even greater value for the CSA share holders and for the farm families themselves.



Nick and two of the employees that spend the growing season helping on the farm. Farmers rely on help from interns, employees, CSA share members and other organic farmers to run a successful farm.



Healthy, well-cared-for soil results in crops that are abundant, healthy and nutritious, such as these Prairie Drifter greens.

“When we look at our farm, we look at the whole picture, not just the vegetables,” Joan said. “That includes pollinator plants, bees, animals...thinking about the farm as a whole. For any farm to do well, it kind of all has to be doing well, including the people that come out to the farm. They have to be in a good space.”

“We know from our research, that there has been a loss of habitat for the pollinators,” Nick said. “It’s nice being across the road from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They pay attention to pollinator planting as well, so we can work jointly with them. There’s recognition that farmers need to grow cash crops, but in those areas where we can’t you can plant habitat.

Each decision of what to plant, where to plant, when to rest the soil, how what nutrients to use to feed the crops that will be planted, and so on, is carefully analyzed to make sure that each crop grown will be the most nutritious, best tasting example of its type.

“Different vegetables have different fertilizer needs, unlike conventional crop farming,” Laura said. “Now 10 years into it, we can tell that we have been doing significant cover cropping, monitoring, soil testing, analyzing yields, looking at what would grow best where and how we rotate our crops for the best produce.”

The proof is in the eating.

“We sell most of our fruit to restaurants,” Andy said. “We grow table grapes that a chef said are the best he’s ever had.”

The lifestyle

Unlike traditional family gardens, an organic farm runs longer, grows as many as three crops per year, and over a longer growing season. From planting through harvest, the

work often requires six days a week for as many as 10-12 hours a day.

For York Farm, the work is more cyclical and controlled by when the fruit is ripe and ready to be harvested. Once the fruit is ripe, it’s all hands on deck.

All three farms rely on others to help plant, care for and harvest the produce. Prairie Drifter Farm hires 2-3 employees interested in organic farming, who spend the growing season at the farm. The other farms employ local people, students, and others who work for a share of the produce.

The winter months allow for a slightly slower schedule, although it’s shorter than what one might expect, and it’s filled with ordering, planning, analyzing what worked, what needs to be changed, doing the books, advertising, along with any maintenance that needs to be done.

“Organic farming is really challenging,” Laura said. “You live where you work, there’s always work to do, it’s labor intensive. But then there are the flowers, the food, we walk outdoors to get our dinner. There are so many intangible benefits we really love.”

Community Supported Agriculture

Community supported agriculture (CSA) is a concept that allows customers to purchase boxes of produce weekly or every other week for a set price. Each box contains produce from the farm that has been freshly-harvested for them, and may include the old favorites like tomatoes, broccoli, potatoes, beans, and peppers. It may also contain vegetables that are more unfamiliar, such as kohlrabi, to stretch their appetites.

“More often than not, we’ve had people say, ‘I had no idea that I liked it but now I eat it all the time and the kids love it...oh, how my kids love the kohlrabi!’” said Joan.

Prairie Drifter Farm keeps their CSA shares pretty much local, with boxes picked up at the farm, in Litchfield, Dassel and St. Cloud. Loon Organics has one-third of their CSA membership locally, and the rest of the produce goes to Twin Cities customers and to the Mill City Farmer’s Market in Mpls. York Farm sells to Twin Cities restaurants and shares some of their fruit in CSA share boxes.

“Ten years ago when we first began, we didn’t know that there was any interest in CSA shares locally,” Laura said. “We had been selling in the Twin



York Farm has 800 trees representing 65 varieties of apples, plums, apricots and pears, gooseberries and currants, plus grape vines.

Cities before we moved here, so we continued. But we’d love to be able to sell our produce locally. We have definitely seen awareness and interest in local organic food increase in this area.”

All the organic farms enjoy the connection with the wider community that selling direct to the customer affords. For Nick and Joan, that connection is heightened because so many of their customers live in the same area.

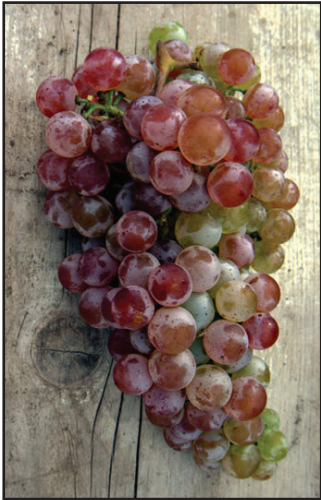
“Many people from our generation grew up on processed foods and are recognizing the need to eat more fresh fruits and vegetables,” said Joan. Members have told us they are eating more vegetables for health reasons as well. Growing local, organice produce for our community is one way to provide fresh and healthy options to families right here in Litchfield.

Several people in the community have told us that our carrots are the best they have ever tasted.”

“If we could sell all the produce that we need to sell in Litchfield, we would do that and not go to St. Cloud,” Nick said. It’s exciting to watch the number of families in Litchfield connect with us. It’s more than initially expected. I think that’s because we’re in the community, and people have heard of us through word of mouth.”

“This model matches the connection to community that we wanted,” Nick said. “I didn’t recognize how important community connections would be, or how deep they could be. We really want to do valuable things to support our community. We really need more farms growing healthy food; more vibrant communities with more farms.”

For more information on any of these farms or how to sign up for a CSA share, visit the following websites: <http://prairiedrifterfarm.com/>; www.yorkfarmmn.com; <http://www.loonorganics.com/>; Or you can contact MOSES (Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service at <https://mosesorganic.org/>.



York Farms’ table grapes were described by one chef as “The best he’s ever had.” Submitted photo

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.

Attention military personnel

Minnesota law provides that a public utility must not disconnect the utility service of a residential member for nonpayment, that has been issued orders into active military duty, for deployment or for a permanent change in duty station, provided that they enter into an agreement with the utility to make payments towards their bill. Forms are available upon request.

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
Willmar: 320-235-0850
Hutchinson: 320-587-5244

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

United Community Action Partnership
500 East DePue Ave,
Olivia MN 56277
320-523-1842

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

Home improvements that may reduce your insurance premiums

There are a few home improvement measures that may save you money on your homeowner’s insurance as well as making your home safer. Some of these improvement measures are designed to protect your home from fires, storms, or burglaries. However, many insurance companies give significant discounts to customers who install one or more of these home improvements.

- 1. Security system with monitoring by an alarm company
- 2. Smoke sensors, freeze alarms, basement water alarms that are monitored
- 3. An automatic generator for electricity
- 4. Upgrade your electrical, heating and plumbing system

Consumers can often qualify for a 2% to 5% premium reduction for monitored home security systems or monitored smoke, freeze or water sensors. An automatic generator that backs up your power supply in the event of an outage can save 4% to 10% a year from many insurance companies. Some companies offer up to a 6% discount when you completely replace your plumbing when remodeling or 2% for completely updating the electrical wiring. You need to check with your insurance agent to see if your current insurance company offers discounts for specific improvements or if the agent offers more competitive coverage with other companies that do provide discounts.

A charged tablet for a year

Electricity continues to be a great value courtesy of your electric cooperative

\$150

July 2018 Outage Summary

During July there were 59 outages reported on the Cooperative’s system. The most common causes of outages in July were 14 planned outages and eight unknown causes.

The outages affecting the most members were on July 3 when a transmission/power supply outage affected four MCPA substations and caused 2,961 members to be without electricity for 7 minutes to 56 minutes, depending upon which sub they were served from. It affected members near Hutchinson, Brownton, Silver Lake, Glencoe, Green Isle, Arlington, New Auburn, Gaylord, Winthrop and Stewart. The second largest outage was also caused by power supply issues and was on July 9. It affected 557 members near Winthrop. The outage lasted for 50 minutes.

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 member wins grill in Farmfest drawing

The group of Minnesota Touchstone Energy Co-ops hosting the electric co-op booth at Farmfest, held a drawing from those co-op members who had registered during the three-day event. Six winners were selected to receive pellet grills. McLeod Co-op Power member Calvin Aarons from Bird Island had his name selected as one of the winners. Congratulations!



Calvin gave the credit to his wife Mary, who brought the registration ticket from the Co-op newsletter along to Farmfest.

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: _____

Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

Please check ad category

☐ Giveaway

☐ For Rent

☐ For Sale

☐ Wanted

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

For Sale Miscellaneous

- Aluminum gutters unused. \$3. 320-296-6224
- New blinds 31 1/4 X 61 1/4. \$80. 320-296-6224
- 2-wheel trailer 6ft X 8ft w/alum ramps, 1800lb cap. \$350. 320-583-3888
- 366 Chevy motor & transmission. 320-522-2167
- 2 garage door openers. 320-522-2167
- 2 rabbit huts and rabbit supplies. 320-587-0502
- Camper Wolf Pup 16p, single axle, excellent condition. 952-353-2344
- 1959 Ford F-600, 292 V-8, 72,000 miles, 6 new tires. Completely restored. 320-238-2324
- 55-gallon steel drums w/removable lids. \$15/each. 952-353-2351
- 10,000 sq ft used roofing steel. Make offer. 320-583-5388

For Sale Farm

- Small square wheat straw bales. 320-522-2167
- Sickle mower mounted. 320-522-2167
- JD 60 tractor live hyd & pto. Runs good. 320-328-4404
- White 549 5X18 auto reset mounted plow. 320-587-6863
- Gehl 99 silage blower 12in pipes. 320-587-6863
- 80bu grain bin. Make offer. 320-583-5388

Giveaway

- 6 chickens, one colorful rooster, three black laying hens. 320-300-8985
- Heavy duty swing set. Come and get it. 320-587-3796

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.

Nominate an Organization

Do you know an organization that has made outstanding contributions to the local community?

McLeod Cooperative Power is seeking applications for the Touchstone Energy Community Award, which recognizes local businesses, non-profit and community groups that have shown a strong commitment to the community. Any organization that has helped make their local community within McLeod, Renville, Sibley or Carver Counties a better place to live and work is eligible to be nominated for the \$500 cash award.

Community members may nominate an organization, association or business by completing an application form. Applications forms are available at McLeod Co-op Power, 1231 Ford Ave. N., Glencoe MN or by calling the Co-op office 1-800-494-6272. Questions may be directed to Sue Pawelk.

The application will require a description of the project, program or event and the positive impact it brought to the community. Completed applications must be received at McLeod Co-op Power's office by October 31, 2018.

"As an electric cooperative serving this area, we have a high regard for community involvement," General Manager Carrie Buckley said. "This award allows us to highlight and encourage those organizations that have shown an outstanding commitment to the community."

The local \$500 award recipient will be announced in November and will then contend for the statewide Touchstone Energy Community Award, which has a cash prize of \$1,000. The statewide award winner will be recognized at the Minnesota Rural Electric Association annual meeting in February 2019.

The Minnesota Touchstone Energy cooperatives are part of a national alliance of more than 750 electric cooperatives in 46 states that adhere to the values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. Email the Co-op to request an application at mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com.

Nominate an Individual



Touchstone Energy
Cooperatives

WHO POWERS YOU?

Inspired by someone making a difference in your community? Tell their story and they could win a cash prize.

Visit whopowersyou.com/enter between 10/1/18 and 11/4/18 and submit a photo of your nominee. Then tell us why that person inspires you and how they make a difference in your co-op community.

\$5,000 GRAND PRIZE

\$2,000 SECOND PLACE

\$1,500 THIRD PLACE

\$500 HONORABLE MENTION

TOGETHER, LET'S
CELEBRATE THE
POWER OF HUMAN
CONNECTIONS

As the national network of more than 730 co-ops, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives value the people who elevate and energize our communities.

That's why we are launching a contest to honor inspirational community members across the country.

Winners will be selected by a panel of judges based on the impact they have on the community. All entries must be submitted by November 4, 2018. Winners will be announced December 2018. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED.

VISIT WHOWPOWERSYOU.COM FOR FULL CONTEST RULES

Sponsored by Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Inc., 4301 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203. ©2018.

How do different heating fuels compare?

Off-peak electric is always a good energy value

When selecting a heating system for your home it can be confusing to compare propane, oil, electric or heat pump sources. The chart will help you visualize your energy cost per one million BTUs for each type of heat source at its most common efficiency.

The chart compares a 95% efficient propane furnace at the Minnesota annual average fuel price for propane to an existing 80% efficient fuel oil furnace at the annual average fuel price for #2 fuel oil. Because each gallon of fuel oil contains more BTUs of heat, you can see that the difference between the two is not dramatically different, unless the cost of one of those fossil fuels were to jump dramatically.

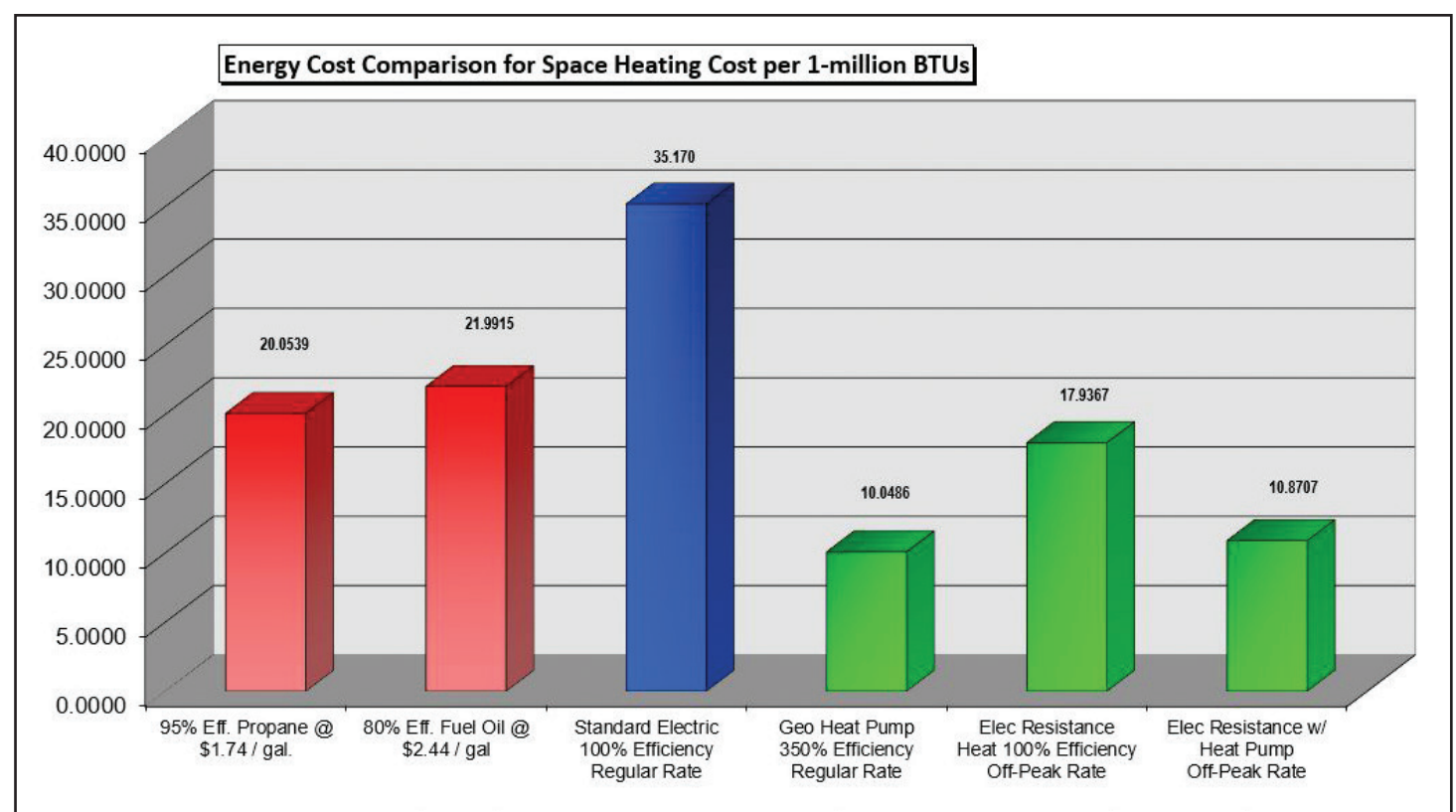
These fuels are less expensive than uncontrolled electric heat on a standard rate. However, costs for electric heat are lower than fossil fuel alternatives when the electricity is on an off-peak program. An electric central storage furnace on the off-peak rate is less costly to operate than propane or oil. Any type of electric heat (baseboards, boiler, forced air) on Dual Fuel will usually be more economical also.

If you install an air source heat pump or a ground source heat pump on an off-peak rate, that

will give you the highest efficiency and lowest operating costs of any heat source compared on the chart. A geo or ground source heat pump can even be operated on the regular uncontrolled electric rate at a lower cost than most other heat sources. However, a geo heat pump has a much

higher upfront purchase/ installation cost. A geo heat pump on the off-peak rate is not shown on the chart but it is approximately half the cost to operate per one million BTUs as the regular rate geo heat pump shown.

So when you are choosing a new or replacement heating system, if you need help sorting through your many options, call the Co-op's energy experts for help. Our staff can help you analyze the best options for your home.



*Off-peak electric rates @ \$.0612 per kWh, regular electric rate @ \$.12 per kWh, propane @ \$1.74 per gallon, #2 heating oil @ \$2.44 per gallon
Fuel cost based on 17/18 heating season Minnesota weekly average price per gallon.