

# THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

March 2013

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 22, Number 3



*Participants at the Battle Creek meeting of irrigation customers.*



*Participants at the Clearwater meeting of irrigation customers.*

## 2013 Irrigation Customer Meetings Well Attended

ERPPD personnel hosted two meetings for irrigators in February. The first meeting was held in Battle Creek and the second meeting was held in Clearwater. A total of 90 customers attended the meetings to hear ERPPD personnel present information on a variety of topics related to electricity and irrigation.

Topics presented were a recap of the record-setting 2012 irrigation season, a look ahead to the 2013 season, 2013 rates, auto-restarts, 3-phase motor savers, demonstration of the irrigation expense calculator, load control status notification options, and customer input.

Also discussed were the many advantages of installing power factor corrective capacitors on irrigation motors, for both the end-use customer and to the district. A full explanation of the potential benefits and also an explanation of fees associated with not having a capacitor installed on irrigation motors 50hp or larger by the 2014 irrigation season will be included in the March rate class option letter to irrigators.

If you have any questions about any of the topics presented or were unable to attend the meetings, please call the office at 1-800-675-2185, or stop in the Battle Creek office, we will be glad to summarize the topics for you and answer your questions. We want to thank all those who took the time out of their busy schedules to attend the meetings. We also want to thank you for your feedback and questions during the sessions.

## We're looking for a few outstanding teens!

Elkhorn RPPD would like to send up to six teens as representatives to the Nebraska Rural Electric Association's Youth Energy Camp, July 15-19.

Let us know about a teen in your life who:

- Is currently a high school freshman, sophomore, or junior
- Lives in a home served by Elkhorn RPPD
- Is hard working
- Has a positive attitude
- Wants to improve their leadership skills
- Would like to learn more about utility careers
- Would like an opportunity to represent ERPPD on a trip to Washington, D.C.

Check out the Energy Camp details on page 3 of this issue and complete the application form by April 22.



# SAFETY NEWS

## Northeast Nebraska Farm Show at NECC

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, in partnership with Stanton County Public Power District, participated in the 2013 Northeast Nebraska Farm and Equipment Show held at Ag Complex on the Northeast Community College campus. Employees from both power districts talked with customers and other visitors about electrical safety and other topics, including energy efficiency, rates, etc.

ERPPD customers visiting the booth registered for a drawing for several electrical related items. Pictured below are the grand prize winners from the show. Mary Haas of rural Norfolk won the drawing for the George Foreman electric grill. Melvin Unkel of rural Battle Creek won the drawing for the LED Wall Sconce exterior light fixture. Ray Hemmer of rural Humphrey and Dwain Volwiler of rural pierce each won an LED light bulb.



*Mary Haas of rural Norfolk, winner of the George Foreman electric grill.*



*Melvin Unkel of rural Battle Creek, winner of the LED Wall Sconce exterior light fixture.*



*A team of linemen from Elkhorn RPPD and Stanton Co PPD perform a safety demonstration using a high voltage demonstration trailer.*

### Energy Efficiency

### Month *Tip of the*

Appliances account for about 13 percent of your home's energy use. If they have energy-saving settings, use them! If they're nearing voting age, consider replacing them with a new, energy-efficient model. And remember to try smart power strips for smaller appliances and electronics that continue to draw power even when turned off. For more tips, visit [EnergySavers.gov](http://EnergySavers.gov).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

### WIRE Correction Notice:

We apologize for an incorrect years of service announcement in the February WIRE newsletter. Rick Cherington's years of service was incorrectly listed as 30 years, when he has actually completed 35 years. Congratulations Rick.

*Elkhorn Rural Public Power District  
March 2013*

# YOUTH ENERGY CAMP

## ERPPD is seeking campers for 2013 camp

The Rural Electric Youth Energy Camp has involved up to 100 high school students (in the ninth, 10th, or 11th grade) each year who have been selected by the rural electric system serving in their areas. The camp, set in the beauty of Nebraska's National Forest at Halsey, offers educational and recreational experiences, leadership training, environmental awareness, character building and social interaction.

Through workshops and guest speakers, campers learn about energy, electric safety, energy management, and careers. One day of the camp is reserved for a tour of the Gerald Gentleman Power Station near North Platte and the Kingsley Hydroelectric plant near Ogallala. The week is interspersed with fun activities, including a get-acquainted party, canoeing, volleyball, a talent contest, dancing, a cook-out, and time to socialize and make new friends.

Leadership is also stressed when interested students compete to win a free trip to Wash., D.C. Three winners will be selected to go as ambassadors from Nebraska next summer. They also are able to return to the next year's camp as a junior counselor.

Those selected by their sponsoring rural electric system will receive the all-expense paid trip to the Nebraska Youth Energy Camp at the State 4-H camp near Halsey. Camp begins around 3:30 p.m. on Monday, July 15, and ends around noon on Friday, July 19. ERPPD provides its camper representatives with transportation to and from the camp.

To enter, complete the form below and mail *by April 22, 2012* to:

**Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, c/o Stacie Young, Box 310, Battle Creek, NE 68715**



### 2013 ERPPD ENERGY CAMP APPLICATION FORM

(Entry Deadline April 22, 2013)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' or Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

#### COMPLETE THE SHORT PARAGRAPH BELOW:

Why I would like to attend the 2013 Youth Energy Camp at the 4-H camp at Halsey National Forest on July 15-19 as a representative of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District.

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# OPERATIONS REPORT

## Borrowed Substation Transformer Returned to Cedar-Knox PPD



*ERPPD crew members preparing a transformer to be lifted into position in Sub 19, five miles west of Elgin.*

On January 23, ERPPD crews replaced the transformer in our Sub 19, located 5 miles west of Elgin on Highway 70. The transformer that was in Sub 19 was a borrowed transformer from Cedar-Knox Public Power District, and was returned to Cedar-Knox PPD following the replacement.

The borrowed transformer was installed last July after both our original transformer and then a spare failed. These two transformers were transported to a transformer testing and repair facility in Kansas for evaluation. They found that neither transformer could be repaired. Fortunately, both transformers were covered by insurance. ERPPD performed a cost-benefit analysis and it was determined that it made economic sense to install a larger transformer while we were at it. The Cedar-

Knox transformer needed to be taken out and returned, regardless of what was put back in. A rewind transformer was purchased that will increase the capacity of the substation from 5,000 kva up to 7,500 kva.

Since ERPPD does not have lifting equipment to handle the large transformers, Pro Crane of Norfolk was hired for the transformer changeout. The crane operator first removed the borrowed transformer (34,000 pounds) and loaded it on a flatbed trailer for transport back to Hartington. He then unloaded and set the replacement transformer (74,000 pounds) in position. Our crews then took over and connected the transformer for operation.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position and subdivision

- Rod Zohner  
President.....II
- Tim Means  
Vice President ..II
- Larry Lindahl  
Secretary .....III
- Dennis Kuchar  
Treasurer ..... I
- Jerrell Dolesh  
Director .....II
- Mark Miller  
Director ..... I
- Joe Thiele  
Director .....III
- Greg Weidner  
Director ..... I
- David Hoefler  
Director .....III

### MANAGER

Tom Rudloff

### For Emergency Service or Outage Reporting 1-800-675-2185

#### After Hours Note:

The entire 800-number *must* be dialed, even for a local call.

### Communicate Electronically With ERPPD

Internet: [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com)

E-mail: [erppd@erppd.com](mailto:erppd@erppd.com)



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

**It's the law!  
Call 811 Before  
You Dig!**

Or 1-800-331-5666  
Diggers Hotline  
of Nebraska

### Outage Checklist

In the case of an outage:

- First check to see if the fuses below the meter are good.
- If you have breakers, make sure they are on and have not kicked out.
- If you have a double-throw switch for standby power, make sure it is in the correct position.
- Check with neighbors to see if they have power. By doing this before calling us, we can determine if it is a line or an individual outage. This can help cut down on outage duration.
- Please, be prepared to give the name on the account, plus the consumer number and/or the legal location. This will assist us in sending our crews to the correct place.

### Questions about your bill?

Please call the ERPPD office at 402-675-2185 or toll-free, 1-800-675-2185, during office hours, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-F, in regards to billing questions. When calling the office concerning billing problems, it will save time if you would have your meter serial number or customer account number. Remember to call the Battle Creek office if you have billing questions. All account payments should be mailed to:

**Elkhorn Rural  
Public Power  
District  
P.O. Box 310  
Battle Creek, NE  
68715**