

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

May 2015

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 24, Number 5

ERPPD is dedicated to providing **SAFE, RELIABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE** electricity for **ALL** customers.

YOU are the PUBLIC in Public Power!!

Come join the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of YOUR Public Power District!

What: ERPPD 75th Anniversary Open House

When: June 3, 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Where: ERPPD Headquarters-Battle Creek

Supper will be served for all guests: Pulled pork sandwiches, salad, baked beans, and cake.

Come for the food. Stay for the Fun!!

Electronic mapping demo
Historical display

High-voltage safety demo
Hotline crossarm change demo

GPS vehicle locator
Inflatables for kids

Pole-setting demo
Facility tours
Science activities

LED lighting demo

Bucket-truck rides
Information booths

Kids' Games
Pole-climbing

SAFETY NEWS

May is National Electrical Safety Month

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District is dedicated to promoting safety in all that we do. Spring planting season is a great opportunity to remind everyone of the dangers of contact with high voltage lines. Farm equipment is getting larger and taller each year as farmers try to cover more ground in less time to improve efficiencies. Along with larger equipment comes increased risk as sprayer booms, planter arms, and bigger disks fold up taller and swing wider on turns. Be aware of the dangers and always remember the safety motto "Look Up and Live".

If you do have an accident involving contact with the high voltage lines or hitting one of the poles, be sure to stay in your equipment or vehicle and call our outage line (800-675-2185), or call 911 and the emergency personnel will contact our crews to secure the scene so you can safely exit. DO NOT make contact with the ground and the equipment at the same time. STAY CALM and take time to assess the situation. You may be able to carefully back out of the situation, but you still need to call our office at 800-675-2185, so we can check out the poles and wires.

For a demonstration on high voltage safety, just log on to our web site, www.erppd.com. You can click on the button on our home page entitled SafeElectricity. This link will take you to www.SafeElectricity.org, where you can click on a Live Line Demo link. This 30 minute video-streamed program and other safety video productions are among thousands of resources available on the web site dedicated to educating people about electrical safety.

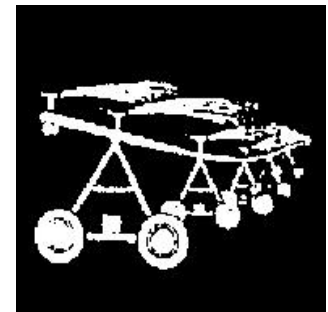
If you have any electrical safety-related questions, or if you wish to schedule a high-voltage safety demonstration for your school or civic club, please contact Wayne McCormick, safety director for Elkhorn RPPD, at (800) 675-2185.



IRRIGATION NEWS

Tips for Irrigators

- **Check Fuses:** Perform a system check before the irrigation season begins to make sure you have power. There may be fuses that need replaced.
- **Motor Savers:** Have your electrician install a motor saver on your system. Most three-phase pump motors detect a blink on only one phase, which can allow the motor to continue to operate on two phases which may result in motor damage. A motor saver monitors all three phases and shuts down the system if any one of the phases blinks.
- **Power Factor Corrective Capacitors:** Capacitors installed at the pump panel will lead to several important customer benefits, such as:
 - Guarding against low voltages on startup
 - Assisting in keeping your system's voltage at a proper level while running.
 - Reducing service amperage and heating due to a poor power factor.
 - Lessening the chance of dimming your neighbor's lights when the motor starts
 - Prolonging the life of your motor and electrical equipment
 - Reducing the demand (measured horsepower) of your well
 - Reducing consumption of kilowatt-hours by utilizing more efficient practices
 - Maximizing the output of the electricity purchased.
- **Autostart:** An autostart component installed on your system can maximize the amount of pumping by automatically starting your system following a period of control, or following a blink on the electrical system.
- **Text or Email Control Notifications:** We can use this service to notify you by text or email when the radio signal has been sent to control your individual well. Another notification will be sent when the radio signal has been sent to restore the individual system at the end of the control period.



If you have any questions on the items above, or questions related to energy efficiency, please call our office at (800) 675-2185 and ask to speak with our Energy Services Representative, Mark Gronau. You can also find valuable energy information by logging on to our website (www.erppd.com) and clicking on the Energy tab.

Rod Zohner Elected President of the Nebraska Electric G&T Cooperative Board of Directors

Rod Zohner, Battle Creek, President of the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District board of directors, was recently elected as President of the Nebraska Electric Generation & Transmission Cooperative (NEG&T) Board of Directors.



Rod Zohner, ERPPD Board President

Rod was elected for a two-year term at the March 25 meeting of the NEG&T. He succeeds Dan Muhlbach of Pleasanton, who represents Dawson Public Power District in Lexington.

The NEG&T is an organization of 21 public power districts and electric cooperatives in Nebraska. The NEG&T was incorporated in 1956 to purchase hydroelectric power from the Missouri River dams, as well as to construct the transmission lines to connect Nebraska systems to the dams to bring the power to Nebraska.

One of the main focal points of the NEG&T today is to administer, for its members, the contractual requirements for wholesale power supply/delivery and related issues. To that end, the NEG&T is currently in discussion with Nebraska Public Power District regarding future power supply for its members.

Congratulations Rod! We believe that you will represent ERPPD and the other 20 NEG&T member systems very well.

Energy Efficiency

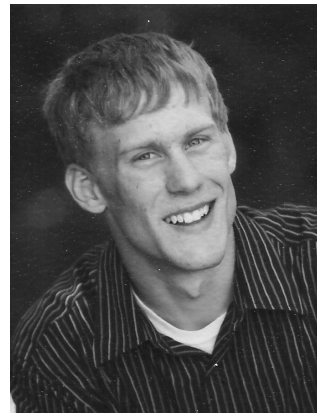
Tip of the Month

Keep cool this summer! ENERGY STAR certified refrigerators are about 9-10 percent more energy efficient than models that meet the federal minimum energy efficiency standard.

Source: energystar.gov

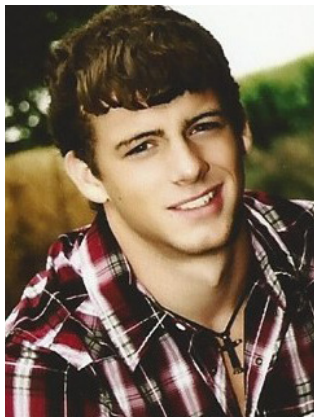
NECC Utility Line Students Set to Begin Summer Internship in May

A cooperative internship program between the state's public power districts and the Utility Line program of the Northeast Community College (NECC) of Norfolk allows the following students to gain practical, on-the-job training at Elkhorn Rural PPD during the summer.



Austin Koehlmoos

Starting in mid-May, Austin Koehlmoos of Pierce, Matthew Schnebel of Battle Creek, and Blake Waldow of Plainview Utility Line students at NECC, will spend their summer days working with ERPPD line crews. They will be doing a variety of utility functions, gaining valuable experience in the utility line industry. Austin and Matt will be assisting crews from the Battle Creek headquarters, and Blake will be assisting crews based in Neligh.



Matthew Schnebel

The internship is a Win-Win program. It gives the students a chance before graduation to find out if they really want to make a career out of utility line work, and the district benefits from the added labor force. The program is part of the curriculum of NECC, and is a requirement for graduation.



Blake Waldow

Congratulations Austin, Matt, and Blake, and we hope you have an educational and enjoyable summer at Elkhorn Rural Public Power District!!



Memorial Day

ERPPD offices **will be closed** on Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.

First Annual Agriculture Appreciation Banquet to be held June 11 at the Madison County Fairgrounds

The Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce and the Madison Chamber of Commerce are hosting their 1st Annual Agriculture Appreciation Banquet on Thursday, June 11, at the Madison County Fairgrounds. The social hour will begin at 5:30 pm with the meal served at 6:30 pm.

The meal will be followed by a guest speaker, the recognition of an Ag Business of the Year, the awarding of two \$500 scholarships, the announcement of the Norfolk Beef Expo scholarship winners, and the recognition of a Farm Family of the Year. The evening will be topped off with a dance featuring the Outback Band.

Sponsorships are available for the banquet and scholarship fund for \$500 (includes 8 meal tickets), \$250 (includes 4 meal tickets), or \$100 (includes 2 meal tickets). Individual meal tickets are available for \$25 each (if purchased before June 1).

For more information, to order tickets, or to become a sponsor, contact Katie Schnitzler at the Norfolk Area Chamber at (402) 371-4862, or by email at kschnitzler@norfolkareachamber.com, or Rebecca Higby with the Madison Chamber at (402) 454-2251, or by email at madisonchamber@telebeep.com. The event is open to the public.

The Chambers' slogan for the event is: "To promote today and tomorrow's agriculture and its importance to the northeast Nebraska economy".

NORTHEAST NEBRASKA
Ag Appreciation



Farms • Businesses • Families

NORFOLK & MADISON

◆ AREA CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ◆

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position and subdivision

Rod Zohner
President.....II
Tim Means
Vice President ..II
Larry Lindahl
SecretaryIII
Dennis Kuchar
Treasurer I
Jerrell Dolesh
DirectorII
Mark Miller
Director I
Joe Thiele
DirectorIII
Greg Weidner
Director I
David Hoefer
DirectorIII

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

E-mail: 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

*Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
May 2015*