



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

May 2023

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 32, Number 5

BUSY SPRING FOR ELKHORN

As most of our customers are busy in the spring with planting and other activities, so is Elkhorn! We are busy growing and maintaining the electric system.

This construction season, over 20 miles of three-phase line and about 80 new irrigation services are being put in! We have also been adding new homes, sheds, and commercial services - about 12 in all.

As with you, supply chain issues and increased costs are impacting how we do business. The graphic to the right shows you the cost increases over the last four years for material we use to build and maintain our electrical system.

Supply chain issues are still a challenge, especially with transformers. Orders for transformers are thirty-six months (three years) out and there is some question of receiving the product even with the early ordering.

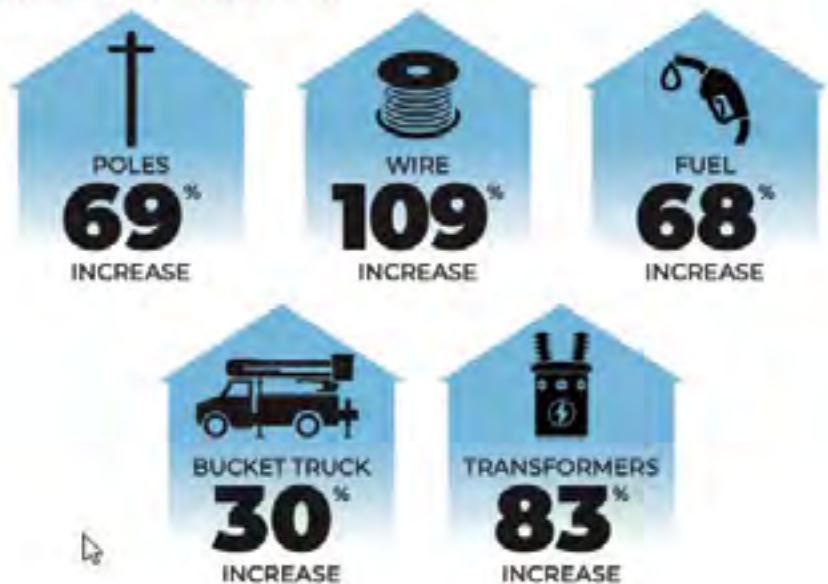
Shortages of raw material, high demand and worldwide labor issues are impacting supplies of electrical equipment and line construction materials.

Elkhorn is doing all we can to minimize the impact of the supply chain issues, like ordering well in advance based

continued on page 4

Cost Increases 2019 – 2022

Costs To Provide Electric Service



KONNIE BEUTLER RETIRES



Konnie Beutler, customer service representative, announced her retirement. Her last day with Elkhorn Rural Public Power District was April 21.

Konnie has worked for Elkhorn for 15 years. Konnie says that she is looking forward to the time off of work and being able to do more with her grandchildren.

We wish Konnie the very best in the next stage of her journey through life!



GROW THE MESSAGE OF SAFETY

Planting season is a busy time for farmers. ERPPD and Safe Electricity remind farmers to:

- **STAY IN** your vehicle or machinery if it comes in contact with a power line; DO NOT get out.
- **LOOK UP** to avoid machinery/power-line contact (long extensions or tall antennas can get caught).
- **ALWAYS HAVE 10 FEET** of clearance surrounding the live lines — even if no contact is made, an electrical current can arc or jump.
- **STAY AWAY** from a sagging or downed line; call 9-1-1 to have the utility dispatched.
- **USE A SPOTTER** with a broad vantage point when operating machinery around power lines.
- **TEACH** the 10-foot clearance rule to anyone working on your farm and review power line locations.

Stickers and window decals reminding you to Look Up and Out for electrical lines are available at ERPPD, local implement dealers and insurance companies. Call the office at 402-675-2185 and we will send them to you.



Learn more at [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)

ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT
providing **SAFE, RELIABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE**
electricity for **ALL** customers.

Irrigation season is upon us! Here are some great tips for irrigators as the irrigation season starts. ERPPD wants to partner with you to make sure you have the most productive irrigation season ever!

Here are some tips to keep your irrigation system running efficiently all summer long:

- **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 three-phase motor saver on your system. Most three-phase pump motors monitor a single phase allowing continued operation during potentially damaging conditions on the remaining phases.
- **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
 - Helping maintain your system's voltage at a proper level while running
 - Lessening the chance of dimming your neighbor's lights when the motor starts
 - Reducing service amperage and heating due to a poor power factor
 - Prolonging the life of your motor and electrical equipment
 - Reducing demand (measured horsepower) billed on your well
 - Reducing kilowatt-hours billed by improved efficiency 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, a blink or other power disruption on the electrical system.
- **Text or E-mail Control Notifications:** We can use this service to notify you by text or e-mail 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, Brian Suckstorf. You can also find valuable energy information by visiting our website (www.erppd.com) and clicking on the "Energy" or "Irrigation" tabs at the top of the page.



ENERGYWISESM

Use less. Spend less. Do more.

Again this year, there is a \$500 incentive for irrigators to replace all of an irrigation system's existing outlet components such as sprinkler heads, sprayers, rotators, plates, pads and nozzles, and regulators on qualified systems.

To qualify, the system must be a minimum of four (4) sections in length with water supplied by an all-electric pumping system. The majority of the system's existing nozzles, sprayers or sprinkler heads must be at least five (5) years old. For verification, a copy of the pivot's most-recent sprinkler/nozzle report (usually kept inside the pivot control panel) must be provided with a completed application and qualifying proof-of-purchase documentation.

You will want to check out all the energy saving incentives for agriculture on the ERPPD website.

Call 800-675-2185 and ask for Brian Suckstorf for more information on the incentive or go to [erppd.com](https://www.erppd.com) and click on the EnergyWiseSM button.

CON'T BUSY SPRING

continued from the front page on projected need; using alternative suppliers, using alternative materials that still meet quality and safety standards and maintaining inventory for outage restoration.

These issues with the supply chain are not impacting rates - as Elkhorn was able to decrease rates over the last two years - but it has had some impact on construction costs.

Pole Testing

Even with all of the construction, maintenance of the system is still a priority. Sundance Power Pole Inspections (Sundance PPI), out of Colorado, will be doing pole inspections starting in early May. Pole testing will be conducted in different parts of the district. They will be working north of Battle Creek; west and south of Madison and northeast and northwest of Neligh. They will also inspect the transmission poles south

and west of Elgin.

Pole inspections consist of visually examining the pole, doing a sound test by hitting it with a hammer and digging around the pole to see if there is decay underground. Poles that show signs of advanced decay are marked for removal, before mother nature causes an outage. This helps keep Elkhorn's reliability at 99+%.



(left). The inspectors move from pole to pole using 4-wheelers and trucks. Please be alert when driving and slow down if you need to pass them.

Vegetation Management

Vegetation management also helps with safety and reliability.

Sundance inspectors will be identifiable with reflective vests (right) and the Sundance logo



Wilson Tree Service out of Norfolk has been contracted to spray trees and vegetation in the right of ways in ranges; 4, 5 and 6.

If you have questions about our pole testing or vegetation management programs please call the office at (800) 675-2185.

We continue on our mission to provide you with Safe, Reliable, Cost-effective electricity.



Pictured above Joe Thiele, board vice president, (right) presents Mark Miller, board president, (left) with the NRECA Director Gold Certificate. The certificate recognizes Mark's efforts to stay current on issues and information affecting the district.



Pictured above the Schulz family - left to right, Zach, Jerry and Bonnie. We recognized their hard work and dedication to farming at Fixin's in the Field with 106 KIX radio station.

*We use this promotion to remind our customers to **Look Up and Out** for overhead lines and have a safe planting season.*

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

Credit: Memorial Day by Clipart.info

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
will be closed
Monday, May 29
In observance of
Memorial Day