

KEM Country

KEM Electric Cooperative, Linton, N.D.

LINES

October 2010

Manager's report

Happy Cooperative Month!

by John Knox, general manager

October celebrates Cooperative Month, something KEM Electric Cooperative is proud to do. The older we get as a cooperative, the better we are for you, our members.

KEM Electric, like all other electric cooperatives, was established for one reason: to bring electricity to the rural parts of our country. The idea was to bring electricity to the members at the most affordable price, while maintaining a strong cooperative. This was possible because the membership has the control and sets the direction, unlike an investor-owned utility, which is driven by profit. One membership, one vote!

KEM Electric still follows the seven guiding cooperative principles when operating your business. Of those seven principles, I have two principles that I believe takes us to the next level as a business.

1) Concern for communities: KEM Electric has always had a deep-seated interest in our local communities. We strive to help with what we can, or offer our knowledge where we can. KEM Electric covers a large geographical area. We offer scholarships to the local schools for our graduating seniors. We help in economic development with economic development loans when possible.

2) Education, training and information: Again, KEM Electric takes pride in educating our membership about electricity and everything associated with its production and distri-

bution. Today, as we are bombarded by more and more regulations, we provide you with the correct information on how these changes will affect you, and most importantly, your cost of electricity.

Training can be looked at in different ways. First, we want to educate you about the dangers of electricity, and then how to safely use electricity to make life easier and more productive. Second, we want to educate you on electric efficiencies and technologies, which can show you how to



reduce your electric consumption, which lowers your utility bill! Thirdly, we want to educate you on legislation that will affect how we generate and distribute the electricity and how these changes will also affect your utility bill.

These are my two favorite principles and have been since I learned about them at my first electric cooperative. I personally believe that we need to all give more to our com-

munities; volunteering is becoming a lost American practice. As a parent, I try to make my kids understand the importance of giving, rather than receiving.

In addition, this is where education fits in; it is our responsibility to educate our children, friends and family about the importance of our electric cooperatives, and what they do for our communities. These strong values, their uniqueness and how they relate to the cooperative model make working at or getting your electric service from a cooperative so important.

So celebrate Cooperative Month with us at KEM Electric office on Friday, Oct. 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. as we serve you, the members, hot dogs and chips. It's our thank you for being a KEM Electric Co-op member.



John J. Knox
CEO/General Manager

ALSO INSIDE

- Celebrate Cooperative Month
- Win a trip to Washington, D.C.
- Board highlights
- And more



Brian Jacob, manager of member services for KEM Electric Cooperative, demonstrates electrical safety to a group of students. Education is just one guiding principle of every electric cooperative.

TELL ME ABOUT MY CO-OP *Celebrate!* You belong to a cooperative!

Neighbor helping neighbor. Cooperative helping community. Applying the basic cooperative principles, North Dakotans have worked together to help themselves, bringing the brilliance of light to homes, farms and businesses across the state.

As we observe Co-op Month in October, electric cooperative members should be proud of the success of the cooperative business model and the spirit of cooperation that these organizations promote.

What makes cooperatives special? Cooperatives are owned and controlled by those they serve. Each person has a voice and a vote in the co-op's activities. The cooperative way of doing business is a true example of grass-roots involvement and democracy in action. The power of the people is exemplified in all types of cooperatives.

**LOCAL.
TRUSTED.
SERVING
YOU.™**

FAST FACTS

Sixteen distribution electric cooperatives serve 230,000 North Dakotans through 147,000 meters, which also:

- Sell nearly 50 percent of all retail electricity in North Dakota
- Own 61,000 miles of distribution power lines
- Have invested \$1 billion in distribution facilities
- Employ more than 600 people
- Operate as nonprofit, member-owned enterprises

Five generation and transmission cooperatives operate in North Dakota, which:

- Have invested more than \$5 billion in North Dakota's energy industry
- Own 4,200 miles of transmission line
- Directly employ more than 2,100 people in North Dakota
- Have invested more than \$800 million in environmental equipment and controls



KEM Electric Co-op Days Open House

KEM Electric will be serving hot dogs and chips
Friday, Oct. 15, 2010 - 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
KEM Electric Office, Linton

We're pleased to serve your community and want to say
thank you for being a KEM Electric Co-op member!

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Cooperatives are owned and controlled by its members....



WHAT IS A COOPERATIVE?

What makes cooperatives special? Cooperatives are owned and controlled by those they serve. Each person has a voice and a vote in the co-op's activities. The cooperative way of doing business is a true example of grass-roots involvement and democracy in action. The power of the people is exemplified in the seven principles that guide all types of cooperatives.

THE COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES ARE:

1. Voluntary and open membership: Cooperatives are open to anyone able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without discrimination.

2. Democratic member control: Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote).

3. Member economic participation: Members contribute to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. Part of that capital is the common property of the cooperative. Surplus capital is often returned to the members.

4. Autonomy and independence: Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5. Education, training and information: Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of the cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

6. Cooperation among cooperatives: Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, regional, national and international structures.

7. Concern for community: While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

Do you have uncashed capital credit checks?

Listed below are the names of KEM Electric Cooperative members or former members who had capital credit checks mailed to them. These capital credits have been retired, but the checks have not been cashed or the cooperative has been unable to deliver the checks because the mailing to

the last available address may have been returned as undeliverable by the U.S. Postal Service.

If you know the correct address or whereabouts of any of these KEM Electric Cooperative members or former members, contact KEM Electric at (701) 254-4666 or (800) 472-2673.

ASKD PARTNERSHIP
ABBOTT, SHELBY
ADAMS, WILLIAM H.
AMLAND, JEFF
ASHLEY PARK BOARD
BAKER, DWIGHT
BAKER, GREGORY
BAUMGARTNER, LEO J.
BAUMGARTNER, LORRENE
BAUMGARTNER, MARK
BECK, EMERY W.
BECK, JOHN R.
BECKER, DARRELL
BEKIUS, RICK
BOEHLER, ADAM F. ESTATE
BOSCH, FRANK T.
BRINDLE, WILLIAM
BUCHHOLZ, BOBBY
BURKHARDT, HERBERT
COMMNET CELLULAR INC.
DEERING, DORIS M. ESTATE
DEIS, DEAN
DERINGER, EUGENE
DOCKTER, MARTHA
DOCKTER, MIKE
DOLL, MIKE
DUCKSTAD, LEE
DUNCAN, DONALD
EASTVOLD, JO A.
ELLINGSON, DONNA
ERBELE, DENNIS L.
FARMERS UNION OIL CO-OP
OF LINTON
FERDERER, KEVIN
FETTIG, RONALD J.
FETTIG, THOMAS L.
FETTIG, WAYNE
FINCK, RAYMOND
FRANSEN, ROGER
FUHRER, DOROTHY
GABRIEL, FRANK
GELTEL, STEVE
GENOFF, VELMA
GERMAIN, JUSTIN
GOLDADE, MIKE JR.
GRENZ, HERBERT
GROSS, VAL J.
HAAK, STEVE
HAIBECK, CURTIS D.
HAIBECK, ROSS
HAIBECK, RUTH
HARDING, GORDON
HEBERT, RUBY
HOCHHALTER, MONTE
HOCHHALTER, WALTER
JT RANCH
JAHNER, GERALDINE ESTATE
JAHNER, FRANK R.

JANGULA, JEROME
JASPER, MILES
JOHNSON, WILLIAM D.
KASEMAN, RAYMOND
KELSCH, AMI
KELSCH, JOE L.
KELSCH, MIKE
KELSCH, WILLIAM J.
KERTZMAN, MICHAEL JR.
KILDE, STEVE
KLEPPE, LLOYD
KNOLL, PETER H. FAMILY TRUST
KNUDSON, WANDA
KOESTER, STEVE
KONECHNE, PATRICK
KRUMM, JOHN
L&L MEATS
LANG, ELMER R.
LANG, KENNETH K.
LAUINGER, JAMES A.
LAUINGER, JOHN J.
LAUINGER, LARRY J.
LAWLER, DEWEY ESTATE
LINTON LIVESTOCK MARKET INC.
LIPP, RON
LOEBS, HERBERT
LUBITZ, ROBERT
LUELLA'S HOBBY HOUSE
MACK, CHRISTINE
MARK'S TIRE SERVICE
MARTIN, FERDINAND
MARZOLF, DONALD
MASSET, FLOYD
MATERI, LEO
MCGUFFIN, SCOTT D.
MCKEEMAN, OREN M.
MEIDINGER, DARRELL J.
MEIDINGER, RODNEY
MEIDINGER, VERNON J.
MEIDINGER, WILMER
MEIER, ANDY
MEIER, TAMMY
MINDT, JOHN H.
MOOS, JAMES
MORMAN, PAUL
MOTL, JAMES
NAGEL, VERNON F.
NELSON, EUNICE
NIEUWSMA, FRANKLIN
NITSCHKE, CLIFFORD
OLSON, MARK
OLSON, PHYLLIS A.
PAPA JOHN'S DRIVE-IN
PAZ, ALVARO
PETERSON, MARTIN W. TRUST
PFEIFER SCHUMACHER
WERLINGER CORP.
PIATZ, SAM

RAU, CHARLES
REIS, ROBERT L.
RODENBURG, TODD
ROEHRICH, JANE
ROHRBACH, EUGENE
ROHRICH, ROBERT
ROHRICH, TAMMY
SCHATZ, JOHN A.
SCHAUER, BRUCE
SCHAUER, LUCILLE
SCHERR, JEROME
SCHIERMEISTER, CRAIG
SCHLOSSER, WENDELIN
SCHNABEL, MAVIS
SCHNEIDER, MICHAEL JR.
SCHOCK, DENNIS N.
SCHRAMM, LARRY
SCHUETZ, TAMMI
SCHUMACHER, GLORIA
SCHWEITZER, JERRY
SERR, STEVE
SILBERNAGEL, LARRY
SPITZER, JEFFREY L.
SPITZER, SELMER
STRAMER, DOUGLAS W.
STROH, MARK
STROM, MYRON
SWINE, T.J.
TED'S MINNOWS
TEMPLE, DOUGLAS E.
TERNES, TERRANCE J.
THOMPSON, ALBERT
THORSON, NORY ESTATE
TOWN AND COUNTRY BAKERY
TSCHOSIK, AUGUSTINE
TUCKER, GALE
US SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS CO.
VAN BEEK, FLOYD
VAN BEEK, GILBERT B.
VAN BEEK, JOHN A.
VAN BEEK, JERRY ESTATE
VAN VUGT, J.A.
VANDER LAAN, TERRY
VANDER VORST, TIM
VANDER VORSTE, LARRY
VETTER, CAROL
WAGNER, TROY
WALD, DARIN
WALKER, MARIE
WANNER, HARVEY
WANNER, RENEE LEA
WEIGEL, GEORGE JR.
WENTZ, RODNEY D.
WERLINGER, KENNETH
WERNER, JOHN
WOLF, MARVIN M.
ZACHER, MYLENE ESTATE
ZACHER, JOHN

PICTURE YOURSELF ATTENDING THE

NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH TOUR

June 11 to 17, 2011

High School Juniors and Seniors...

WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

Here's your ticket for an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

- ▶ To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a junior or senior in high school in the fall of 2011.
- ▶ You and your parents or guardian must be served by KEM Electric Cooperative.
- ▶ Essay is not to exceed two standard 8½- by 11-inch typewritten, double-spaced pages on this topic: *Electric cooperatives are member-owned and controlled. As a member-owner and future decision maker for your cooperative, describe ways in which new technologies and social media can be used to connect and communicate with you and other young adults.*
- ▶ Submit your essay in hard copy or electronic format to KEM Electric. Electronic submissions should conform to the two-page, double-spaced guideline described above. Include a cover page with your name, date of birth, school and grade in 2011, parent or guardian's name, address and telephone number.
- ▶ The deadline is **Monday, Jan. 24, 2011**. E-mailed entries should be directed to bjacob@kemelectric.com, and hard-copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, KEM Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 790, Linton, ND 58552-0790.
- ▶ If you have a question, contact Brian Jacob at KEM Electric, at the address listed above, or call (701) 254-4666 during regular business hours.

TOP 5 REASONS TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of KEM Electric Cooperative
2. Get-acquainted cruise along the mighty Potomac River, with about 1,500 students from all across the country
3. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol
4. Opportunity to share your ideas on how electric cooperatives can connect with young member-owners
5. A learning experience you'll never forget

Check it out at
<http://www.youthtour.coop>
and then write that winning essay
by Jan. 24. It's a trip of a lifetime,
one you'll be texting your
family and friends about!



By simply replacing an incandescent bulb with a compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb, your household can save energy.

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO SAVE

Consider better bulbs to save energy

Lighting represents about 20 percent of a home's electricity bill. Switching from incandescent bulbs to compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs which have qualified to meet Energy Star standards is the easiest step you can take to cut energy costs.

Products carrying the Energy Star meet strict energy-efficiency guidelines set by the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.

For the most energy savings, use CFL bulbs in fixtures which are used the most.

An Energy Star CFL will:

- Save about \$30 over its lifetime
- Pay for itself in about six months
- Use 75 percent less energy
- Last about 10 times longer than an incandescent bulb
- Meet strict energy-efficiency and performance requirements through the Energy Star program

CFLs use significantly less energy than traditional light bulbs. If every home in America replaced just one incandescent light bulb with an Energy Star CFL,

we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes.

In 2007, Americans saved \$1.5 billion by switching to CFLs. The energy saved could light all the households in a city the size of Washington, D.C., for more than 30 years.

To learn more:

Visit www.energystar.gov, where you'll find purchasing tips, information about lighting options and charts showing how to choose a CFL that suits your needs.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Type of bulb	Power used (watts)	Light output (lumens)	Lifetime (hours)	Life cycle cost*
Incandescent	60	800	750-1,000	\$40
Fluorescent	13	800	6,000-15,000	\$10

* Based on a 6,000-hour CFL, a 1,000-hour incandescent, use of three hours each day, 11.09 cents/kilowatt-hour electric rate, \$3 CFL and 50-cent incandescent.

Consider options for drafty windows

Place your hand against a window pane on a chilly fall morning. If the pane feels cold, you might reduce energy costs by either insulating your existing windows or installing new, energy-efficient upgrades.

"Homeowners need to educate themselves so they make the best decisions possible concerning home improvement," says Carl Pedersen, North Dakota State University Extension Service energy educator. And windows are a good place to start.

Homeowners who are considering replacing windows need to first evaluate the need and determine if window replacement is the best choice for energy reduction, he advises. While windows wear out through time and are certainly a source of energy loss in most homes, replacing them is not always the most cost-effective alternative.

Look at low-cost ideas

Many times, homeowners can do a few simple things to reduce energy loss from windows. Those things often are free or low-cost, according to Pedersen.

Temperature fluctuations in building materials cause seals around windows to expand and contract, which will cause them to fail. Inspecting the seals around windows yearly and replacing any caulk or weather stripping that looks worn can be just as valuable as replacing an entire window.

Actions as simple as opening and closing window treatments also can reduce energy consumption in a home.

Insulating with draperies is a low-cost quick fix to drafty windows and can reduce heat loss from a room up to 10 percent. And they're just as helpful in hot summer months by blocking sunlight. White plastic-backed drapes can reduce heat gain by up to 33 percent.

Window films are another cost-effective home improvement project. A number of different films are available. Some films are attached to window frames and have heat-shrink capabilities. These types of films generally are used to add another layer that creates an air pocket to reduce the transfer of cool air and heat loss. They are fragile and not meant to last more than a season.

Other films can be attached directly to windows and are used to reduce the heat transfer through radiation. These films will block a certain percentage of heat passing through the window in the summer to reduce cooling bills; in the winter, they'll help by reflecting heat back into a home.

Choose best models

If you're in the market for new windows altogether, be sure to choose energy-efficient models that will shave heating, cooling and lighting costs year-round.

Energy Star has established a set of energy performance ratings to guide you in selecting windows perfect for



A window that's properly sealed will help save energy.

your home. These performance ratings are broken into several categories, although the two most basic are U-factor and solar heat gain coefficient (SHGC), which can be found on window stickers or packaging.

In simple terms, U-factor measures how easily heat can flow through a window, not counting direct sunlight. The lower the number, the more energy efficient the window. In North Dakota, look for a U-factor of 0.35 or less.

SHGC measures how much heat from sunlight can be absorbed by the window. A high number means the window remains effective at collecting heat during winter.

You can also visit www.energystar.gov for more details and other criteria to consider when shopping for new windows.

What makes a window energy efficient?

IMPROVED FRAME
Wood composites, vinyl, and fiberglass frames reduce heat transfer and insulate better.

LOW-E GLASS
Special coatings reflect infrared light, keeping heat inside in winter and out in summer. They also reflect damaging ultraviolet light, protecting interior furnishings.

GAS FILLS
Some windows have argon, krypton, or other gases between the panes. These odorless, colorless, non-toxic gases insulate better than regular air.

MULTIPLE PANES
Two panes of glass, with an air or gas-filled space between, insulate much better than a single pane. Some include three or more panes for greater efficiency, impact resistance, and sound insulation.

WARM EDGE SPACERS
A spacer keeps a window's glass panes the correct distance apart. "Warm edge" spacers made of steel, foam, fiberglass, or vinyl reduce heat flow and prevent condensation.

Source: ENERGY STAR

Board meeting highlights

KEM Electric Cooperative Inc.
Aug. 24



- Reviewed report from the Voucher Review Committee
- Approved the special equipment summary
- Approved capital credit retirement of two estates
- Reviewed the rate analysis

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Electric
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and FUN
Halloween!**

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*will be the last water heater
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FEATURES:

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- One of the most efficient water heaters on the market.
- To save money, ask about placing your Marathon water heater on one of KEM Electric Cooperative's load-management programs.

Call KEM Electric Cooperative
(701) 254-4666
(800) 472-2673

KEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

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Report outages to the following
toll-free number: (800) 472-2673

Hazleton, Linton and Strasburg exchanges'
phone number: (701) 254-4666

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Friday,
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Web site: kemelectric.com
email address:

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative