



NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Watts Ahead

NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OP, INC.

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IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, please call 800-828-5538. The office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday. After hours, calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to our on-call personnel.

Ninnescah Electric Begins Rate Study

Have you ever wondered how the rates you pay for electric service are established? The revenue derived from the rates paid by the members for electric service funds the operation of the electric co-op. It is the responsibility of the board of trustees and management to examine rates periodically to be sure they are just and reasonable and will allow the cooperative to fulfill its obligations to the members and the co-op's lenders. Ninnescah Electric is beginning the process of a rate study to accomplish this. Over the next few months, we will explain the different parts of the rate study process.

Rate studies are complicated. In a sense, they are an attempt to predict the future, or at least the answers to a few questions. What revenue will be required to fund the operations of the cooperative for the foreseeable future and what is the fairest way to collect that revenue through rates? What external factors will have an effect

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on the co-op's financial picture in the future? What will the weather be like in the coming years? While we may never accurately predict the weather in the future, an attempt can be made to predict the other variables that affect rates.

The rate study has several stages. First, we will use existing data to determine what revenue will be required to operate the co-op successfully in the future. Next, we will perform a cost-of-service study to assign the costs to provide electric service to customer classes using traditional ratemaking principles. And last, we will design rates to meet the cost recovery obligations, to recover the revenue fairly from each customer

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2024 Annual Meeting Highlights

Ninnescah held its 86th annual meeting on March 19, 2024, at the Pratt Municipal Building. Members enjoyed a wonderful meal served by Fence Post of Harper.

This year's guest speakers were Suzanne Lane, former executive vice president and CEO, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, and Bill Glynn, director of cybersecurity, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

Congratulations to the winner of the annual meeting puzzle credit, **PATTY JOHNSON**, who received a \$50 credit on her electric bill. Thank you for attending, we hope to see you again next year!



2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION RESULTS

Thank you for sending in your ballot for the 2024 board of trustees election. Results were announced at our annual meeting and are as follows:

- ▶ **MICHAEL CHRISTIE**
Stafford
- ▶ **RYAN M. LUNT**
Pratt
- ▶ **MARC T. RUNDELL**
Preston



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kevin Banks – Pratt

Peter B &/or Susana Bergen – Mullinville

Joseph G &/or Rachel Brungardt – Preston

Stephen C &/or Sheila F Crooks – Oro Valley, AZ

Hall Family Land & Cattle LLC – Harper

Alan Kerr – Coats

Derek R &/or Eve D Kessler – Sawyer

Lucas L McDonald – Medicine Lodge

Lynda D McDonald – Medicine Lodge

Danine R &/or Larry Oxendine – Cheney

Quality Dairy Construction LLC – Hartley, TX

Rockhound Petroleum LLC – St. John

Spivey Operator LLC – Attica

Scholarship Winners Announced



The winners of our 2024 scholarship are (from left): Megan Matulka, Pratt; Allie Hoeme, Preston; Bailey Jackson, Preston; Maddox Riffey, Sawyer; Brock Hassiepen, Greensburg; and Thomas Deviney, Attica (not pictured). Each student will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to use at the college or technical school of their choice.

The 2024 Ninnescah Rural Electric scholarship contest was held in February. Contestants were tested on the provided information packet and interviewed by a panel of three judges. This year, we had 19 students participate in the contest.

The winners of our 2024 scholarship are **MEGAN MATULKA**, Pratt; **ALLIE HOEME**, Preston; **BAILEY JACKSON**, Preston; **MADDOX RIFFEY**, Sawyer; **BROCK HASSIEPEN**, Greensburg; and **THOMAS DEVINEY**, Attica.

Each student will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to use at the college or technical school of their choice.

Next year's scholarship will be open to seniors whose parents or guardians are members of Ninnescah Electric. Students in our service territory may also participate even if the service is not listed in their parents name. For information about next year's scholarships, call 800-828-5538.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Looking for an easy way to manage home energy use? Smart plugs are inexpensive and offer convenient solutions for scheduling and controlling your favorite electronic devices. With smart plugs, you can easily manage your coffee maker, lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. Smart plugs can help you manage devices through a smart phone app, your home assistant or voice control. By conveniently powering off or scheduling devices, you can save energy — and money!

SOURCE: WWW.ENERGYSTAR.GOV



SCHULTZ RETIRES FROM BOARD



Ronald Schultz (right) with his wife, Arnita, celebrated his retirement from the Ninnescah Board of Trustees after 37 years of service.

RONALD SCHULTZ was elected to serve on Ninnescah's Board of Trustees in November 1987. Schultz's strong leadership and dedication were apparent early on. He was elected board president in 1992 and served in that capacity until his retirement. His influence played a crucial role in guiding Ninnescah Electric to its current success. The impact of his leadership on Ninnescah will continue for years to come.

Thank you, Ron, for your service and dedication to Ninnescah Electric!

NINNESCAH'S NEWEST ADDITION



Journeyman Austin Barnard (right) with his wife, Cecelia, and daughter Hallie Rose at Ninnescah's Annual Meeting.

Journeyman **AUSTIN BARNARD** and his wife, Cecelia, recently welcomed their daughter, **HALLIE ROSE**. Welcome to the cooperative family!

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class, and to meet any other strategy or goals identified by the board in the rate study process.

When the rate study is completed, it will be reviewed by the board in detail. Kansas law then requires that we provide the membership with notice of the time and place of any meeting of the board of trustees where rate changes will be discussed and voted on. That meeting notice will appear in the pages in this section of the magazine and an attempt will be made to provide you with as much detail as possible on any proposed changes to the rates. You will have the opportunity to attend the

board meeting to hear the discussion and vote of the board, and even express your opinion on the changes, if you desire.

You show confidence in your board of trustees when you cast a vote for their election to the position. The board takes its responsibility to set fair rates very seriously. After all, they are members of the cooperative and pay the same rates.

We will keep you informed as this rate study progresses. Next month, we will discuss the revenue requirement aspect of the rate study.

Rabbits IN THE Garden?

BY K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION NEWS SERVICE

K-State horticulture expert gives methods for effective protection

Rabbits are a common invader of home gardens, especially when plants flower in spring. Kansas State University horticulture expert Ward Upham said there are many common-sense ways to keep hungry critters out.

“This time of year, rabbits gravitate to young vegetables and flowers,” Upham said. “But there are some vegetables that are rarely bothered, including potatoes, tomatoes, corn, squash, cucumbers and some peppers.”

Upham said some methods for keeping rabbits away include:

FENCING

Fencing is often the quickest and easiest method of control. Upham recommended the fence be at least 2 feet tall with a fine mesh of 1 inch or less. Fencing support can be provided by a variety of products, including electric fence posts. However, fencing may not be a viable choice based on the desired appearance of the garden.

FLOATING ROW COVER

Floating row cover is a light woven material that can be placed over plants yet still allows light, water and air to come through.

“Though most often used to promote early growth by keeping plants warmer than normal, it can also help protect young plants from insects and wildlife,” Upham said.

REPELLANTS

Although commonly suggested for rabbit control, repellants must be reapplied frequently. Some can also be poisonous and cannot be used on plants intended for human consumption, Upham warned.

TRAPPING

Upham said live traps are usually recommended when the rabbit can be moved to a rural area several miles away from where they were initially caught.

“A number of baits can be used to entice the rabbit to enter the trap, including a tightly rolled cabbage leaf held together by a toothpick. However, rabbits often avoid baits if other attractive food is available.”

SPRINKLER

A motion-activated sprinkler can be attached to a garden hose, releasing



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a short burst of water upon motion. Upham suggests picking a product that advertises it can protect at least 1,000 square feet: “Such products are available from Contech, Orbit and Havahart,” he said.

More information on rabbits and rabbit control is available online from K-State Research and Extension.

Upham and his colleagues in K-State’s Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources produce the weekly Horticulture Newsletter with tips for maintaining home landscapes. The newsletter is available to view online or can be delivered by email each week.

Interested persons can also send their garden- and yard-related questions to Upham at wupham@ksu.edu, or contact your local K-State Research and Extension office.

BRAND NAMES MENTIONED IN THIS ARTICLE ARE FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY AND ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE AN ENDORSEMENT OF ANY PRODUCT.