

P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124
620-672-5538
www.ninnescah.com



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 620-672-5538. 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.

Shift Timing, Shift Savings

As we settle into the heat of July, our homes naturally use more electricity. Air conditioners run longer, refrigerators work harder, and daily routines — from cooking dinner to doing laundry — often overlap during the warmest parts of the day. That's also when the demand for electricity across our community is at its highest.

At Ninnescah Electric, our top priority is delivering safe, reliable and affordable power whenever you need it. But during peak energy hours — 3 to 6 p.m. — there's added pressure on the grid as homes and businesses require larger amounts of electricity, all at the same time. On the hottest days, that strain can be significant.

The good news is that small changes at home can make a meaningful difference.

Think of our electric grid like a highway system. During rush hour, traffic is heavy, congestion builds and everything slows down. But when drivers adjust

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their schedules, even slightly, it helps ease the bottleneck. The same principle applies to energy use.

By shifting some of your high-energy activities to off-peak hours — like doing laundry later in the evening, running the dishwasher before you go to bed, or cooking meals earlier in the day — you're helping spread out demand. That reduces pressure on the grid during those critical peak hours.

HERE ARE A FEW SIMPLE STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO LOWER ENERGY USE DURING PEAK HOURS

Smart technology can be a valuable

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SUMMER RATES BEGIN

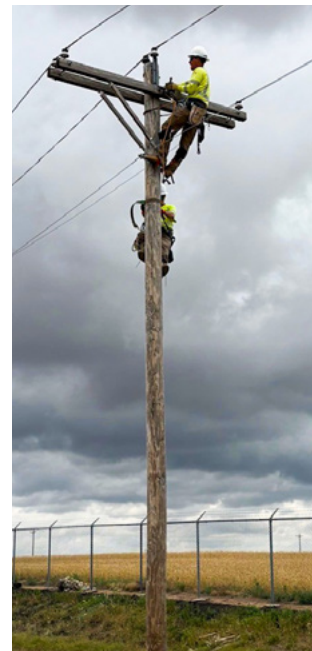
Summer rates will be reflected for June usage and will remain in effect though your September usage. Listed below are the summer rates for electric service.

**Includes Energy Cost Adjustment – Varies Monthly*

Summer Rates		Cost
Residential Minimum Billings*		
Single Phase	Customer Charge	\$32.50
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.15478 per kWh
	Demand Charge	\$0.25 per KW
Three Phase	Customer Charge	\$42
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.15478 per kWh
	Demand Charge	\$0.25 per KW
General Service Minimum Billings*		
Single Phase	Customer Charge	\$35
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.13207 per kWh
	Demand Charge	\$0.35 per KW
Three Phase	Customer Charge	\$45
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.13207 per kWh
	Demand Charge	\$0.35 per KW
Small Commercial Minimum Billings*		
Single Phase	Customer Charge	\$37.50
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.14732 per kWh
	Demand Charge	\$0.50 per KW
Three Phase	Customer Charge	\$47.50
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.14732 per kWh
	Demand Charge	\$0.50 per KW
Irrigation Minimum Billings*		
Single Phase	Customer Charge	\$32.50
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.15232 per kWh
	Energy Cost Adjustment	Varies Monthly
Three Phase	Customer Charge	\$42.50
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.15232 per kWh
Load Control	Customer Charge	\$30
	HP Charge (Billed in 5 equal installments in April-August)	\$38.75/HP
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.09990 per kWh
No Load Control	Customer Charge	\$30
	HP Charge (Billed in 5 equal installments in April-August)	\$42.50/HP
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.14007 per kWh

Family Day *Highlights*

Ninnescah linemen gave board members, employees and their families a closer look at the tools and trucks they use every day. The day was both educational and enjoyable for all.



SAFETY TIP

Keep TVs, lamps and other heat-producing items away from your thermostat. They can affect the temperature reading and cause your cooling system to run longer than needed.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Running multiple major appliances at the same time — like your dishwasher, laundry machine and oven — can spike energy demand and strain the grid, especially during peak hours (typically late afternoon to early evening). Instead of stacking appliance use, spread it out throughout the day or shift chores to off-peak hours when energy demand is lower. This not only helps improve overall efficiency but can also reduce your energy costs.

SOURCE: NRECA



Energy Efficient Irrigation Strategies

BY MARIA KANEVSKY

Agriculture is the backbone of our state, and keeping farmland well-irrigated is crucial for our agricultural producers. Farm irrigation methods and technologies can make a huge difference when it comes to maximizing productivity while minimizing costs.

Energy-efficient irrigation methods help farmers curtail unnecessary water use while growing the same produce, reducing their operating costs and increasing overall productivity. Above all, when choosing among irrigation methods and technologies, the most important considerations are overall cost, return on investment, convenience, and risk minimization.

One of the easiest ways to maximize energy efficiency, as many farmers have already done, is to replace old, inefficient diesel irrigation motors with electric motors. Typically, electric motors are about 90% efficient, while diesel motors are much less efficient, at 30%-40%. This means cost savings in the long run for farmers. Electric motors also have lower maintenance needs and can make use of a variable frequency drive (VFD) irrigation system, which helps further reduce costs.

VFD systems allow farmers to pump water at different rates, which maximizes irrigation throughout the day. A VFD system can control the speed of an electric motor by adjusting the frequency of the electrical power supplied to the motor. Since electric irrigation motors offer many benefits, the majority of U.S. farmers have switched from diesel motors to electric ones, although pairing the motor with a VFD system is still a relatively new agricultural trend.

Irrigation efficiency is not a one-time deal. After several years, the efficiency of irrigation pumps tends to decline. After five years, irrigation pumps are typically evaluated for performance efficiency. The evaluation can help inform decisions on the most cost-effective solution, whether making improvements to the existing pump



LANCE CHEUNG, USDA

Replacing leaky sprinklers can help save a significant amount of water. Maintaining the overall efficiency of irrigation systems over time helps reduce water use and save energy.

or replacing it entirely. Irrigation pump tests usually assess the pump's discharge pressure, lift, water flow and power input. Regular testing of irrigation pumps can help ensure they are working as efficiently as possible. Upgrading irrigation hardware can also improve irrigation system performance. Replacing leaky sprinklers, for example, can help save a significant amount of water. Maintaining the overall efficiency of irrigation systems over time helps to reduce water use and save energy.

There are many new agricultural technologies that are part of the "precision agriculture" industry, including autonomous tractors, crop-monitoring drones, and robotic milking or weeding machines. Beyond existing irrigation technologies, Wi-Fi-connected crops is one type of precision agriculture irrigation technology. After placing Wi-Fi-connected sensors throughout a crop field, farmers can monitor conditions by using their smartphones or computers. Data on light, humidity, temperature and moisture are captured by the sensors. That data is automatically sent to a server for analysis, and then to a farmer's smartphone app. Using Wi-Fi-connected crops also allows farmers to remotely set automatic timers for their watering systems. With Wi-Fi-connected crops, there are several

factors to consider, such as cost, range, bandwidth and power. One constraint of using Wi-Fi-connected crops is that the sensor range can be limited, which makes the technology only feasible for smaller farms. There are other network connectivity platforms that could be applied to irrigation management, such as cellular connection, satellites, LoRa and Sigfox, but Wi-Fi is by far the most commonly used.

As technology continues to improve, there will be new opportunities to support the agricultural sector. Replacing technology that uses on-site fossil fuels, such as propane and gasoline, with electricity-powered technology will improve energy efficiency and reduce local pollution.

Kansas' electric cooperatives are proud to support their agricultural members and will continue to help them determine opportunities to improve and meet their energy efficiency goals.

MARIA KANEVSKY writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.

Shift Timing, Shift Savings *Continued from page 12A ►*

partner in saving energy. A programmable or smart thermostat can automatically adjust your home's temperature when demand is highest, helping you stay comfortable while using energy more efficiently. Even a small adjustment of a few degrees during peak hours can make a difference.

In the kitchen, simple swaps can help, too. Using a slow cooker, air fryer or outdoor grill instead of the oven keeps your home more comfortable and reduces the need for additional cooling during the warmer parts of the day. And when it comes to laundry, air-drying clothes or spacing out loads can cut down on both energy use and indoor heat.

Don't overlook the power of ceiling fans, either. They can help you feel several degrees cooler, allowing you to raise your thermostat setting without sacrificing comfort.

These actions may seem small on their own, but together, they add up. When many members make mindful choices about when and how they use electricity, it helps reduce peak demand, eases strain on the grid, and supports more stable energy costs for our local communities.

That's the cooperative difference. As a member, you're not just a customer — you're part of a community working together to power our future. Every effort you make contributes to a stronger, more resilient system.

This summer, I encourage you to take a closer look at your daily routines. A few simple shifts can go a long way in keeping your home comfortable, your energy use efficient, and our grid running smoothly — no matter how high the temperatures climb.

Fill-in-the-Blank: Fireworks Safety Tips

Holidays like the Fourth of July and other celebrations can be fun times with great memories. But everyone should practice safety near fireworks. Read the safety tips below, then fill in the blanks with the correct answer in the word bank.

1

The best way to stay safe is to never use fireworks at home. Instead, attend a public _____ and leave fireworks to the pros.

2

Watch fireworks from a _____ of 500 feet away from where they are launched.

3

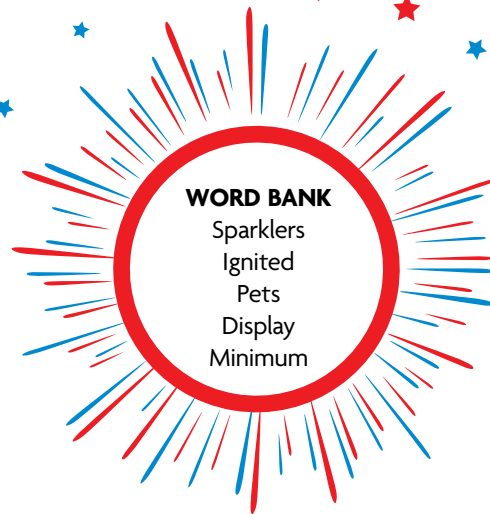
Never touch or pick up pieces of fireworks or duds as they may still be _____ or could explode at any time.

4

Remember, _____ are not toys and can reach 2,000 degrees F. Use glow sticks instead.

5

Think about _____ when fireworks are nearby. It's best to leave them indoors to reduce the risk of them running away or being injured.



ANSWER KEY: 1. Display 2. Minimum 3. Ignited 4. Sparklers 5. Pets