



Hello All! We are now officially just under a month into “summer”. We seem to have had more wind than in the last few years and it’s still very hot, well into the 90’s and even breaking into the triple digit temperatures a few times! However, the good news is that we have had occasions of rain to go with the high temps, which is always appreciated. Our irrigation usage is “typical” on a year-to-date basis, even with the hot temperatures. Overall, most all categories are up slightly, with the largest increase in large commercial as the oil pumping continues to be strong.

I hope everyone had a great time at the county fairs! It is always fun to get out and see folks and all the work that has been going on in the area throughout the year. Since I was a little kid, I always enjoyed fair time! It is a pleasure for the REA to be able to assist with the preparation of the fairgrounds, which take a tremendous amount of work. The fairgrounds staff and the Fair Board do a fantastic job of getting it all together with such a limited budget, and we are honored to be able to help where we can. Thanks for all your work!



By the time you get this, State Fair should be in full swing and we are looking forward to seeing everyone at the fair this year! It should come as no surprise that Mr. Teel does a fantastic job putting it all together for the Electric Cooperative booth! This will be the third consecutive year the Wyoming Electric Cooperatives have had a booth at the fair, and we continue to add to it each year. We started with a single booth space and we will have three spaces this year! Tri-State has been a great partner in helping put this all together, including coordinating the Touchstone Energy hot air balloon to give rides for a couple of days at the fair. Tri-State will also have their “Generate Possibilities” virtual reality display at the booth. Experience different power-related perspectives like climbing out and standing on the top of a wind tower and seeing the view. This is all simulated, but pretty cool none the less! We will again have our electric safety demonstrations, with lots of arcs and sparks, and you can give pole climbing a try if you would like to strap on the hooks and belt! We hope you make the trip to Douglas to say “hi” and see the great demonstrations your Cooperative has put together this year!

On another front, the Wyoming primary elections are coming up on August 21. There are a number of candidates for the different offices. I hope you all participate in this process and cast your vote after doing your research. You have read my thoughts on this process before so I will not rant about it this month. This is the basic process in which we exercise our freedom, so please do your research on the candidates, and then exercise your right to vote.

And the best for last this month! Our own Mr. Jack Finnerty was selected to receive the Craig Thomas Cooperative Service Award from the Wyoming Rural Electric Association, the statewide organization representing Wyoming electric cooperatives. This award is given out each year and anyone from across Wyoming can be nominated, but only one is selected! The award is in recognition of those who have gone above and beyond in supporting the cooperative mission and purpose. Jack is the model of this service! Jack has unwavering commitment and dedication to the REA membership. He always keeps the membership at the forefront of his decisions. For Jack, it is always cooperatives first! He is a supporter of agriculture, youth, and the Wyoming way of life. He is one of those people you occasionally meet in life who stands out as someone of true integrity, an example to us all. He lives his code and is dedicated to the Cooperative model. Congratulations Jack! Thanks for all you do!

Thanks for letting us serve you. It is always a pleasure to work with you, the member-owners of this great Association! Please stop in and let us know if you have any questions or concerns or even just say hello. We are here for you. Hope to see you at the fairs or just around town!

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From the Office of RKA.....

WOW!! I am writing for the month of August 2018. Where has the summer gone? Although it is the end of the summer, it is also a beginning for many: participants in the county and state fair; students heading either to college for the first time or back to the grindstone; and parents bustling around to get their kids ready to head back to school! I remember those days...I hated them because the summer was over, but I also loved them because my kids were ready (and so was I!!) to catch up with friends and again get involved in school activities and functions.



I want to discuss a couple of items that are coming your way in September. First is e-bill notification on your account. The way it works is that you give us your e-mail address, and when the bills have been generated and posted to your account, you will receive an e-mail stating your bill is ready. You can then go to our website and look at your bill there, or you can wait and get your paper copy in the mail. If you are interested in this, please call us with your email address, and we will get your account set up for these notifications.

The second item is called RPPS which is basically an acronym for posting payments electronically from you. Some of our members make their payments through their own bank website, like "Bill Pay". The bank then sends us a paper check and we process the payment. With the new system, rather than have a paper check sent to us (and worry about if it is going to make it here), the system will automatically post the check to your account as soon as the bank processes the payment. This alleviates any hassle with mailings and posts the payment in a more timely fashion for you. The one important factor you need to remember is that you need to give the bank the correct account number when setting up this bill pay. In other words, you can't just put zero's or 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc., you must put the account number that is on your bill. If not, the payment will reject and be returned to your bank. If you have any questions about either of these items, please let me know.

Another update I am working on is still in the 1st phase, and that is a "phone app" where you can look up your bill, pay your bill, look at your usage, etc. There are quite a few different parts to getting this set up, but at some point in the future, you will be able to pay us through your phone and have us as an app!

Seems like we haven't had a lot of time to dedicate to fishing. With the heat we have had, the fish are not too keen on jumping on that hook! It seems like we also have had something going on every weekend; between family get togethers, weddings, etc., but here comes September! Hopefully we have cooler temperatures and better fishing. The dogs won't mind having it a little cooler either!!

Until next month....



New Employees



Meet our two new Journeyman Linemen, James Priest (L) and Clay Becker (R). Clay came from the state of Missouri, where he worked for a co-op. Clay is married and has 3 children. James came to us from the state of North Dakota, where he worked for a contractor. James is married and has a beautiful baby girl. If you see them around town, welcome them to Wheatland.

Dove season starts
September 1, 2018 so
remember....

Never shoot doves off power lines! Broken wires are not only expensive...**THEY ARE VERY DANGEROUS!**

Don't shoot toward a power line!
Good hunting is being safe!

Shop these fine merchants...they give our members discounts!

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TIME-OF-DAY MEMBERS!

On September 1, 2018 the winter schedule of on-peak/off-peak hours starts. These hours are in effect until December 31, 2018. If we receive no changes from Tri-State, we will continue until April 30, 2019.

The On-Peak hours:

12:00 pm (noon) until 10:00 pm

The Off-Peak hours:

10:00 pm until 12:00 pm (noon)



2018 Platte
County Fair
What a great fair!



We had so much fun this year, we can't wait for next year!

Where is my cotton candy?

Great Job Fair
Participants!
From
Wheatland REA



Hey there, this is Jack. You might remember me from last month's issue of the WREN. I wanted to remind you that the summer is a good time of year to upgrade your furnace, and to fix things so your house is ready for the winter. If you can keep the cold out, it will also help keep the heat out in the summer. Isn't that right Jill?

Yes Dear. Seriously, did you turn off the coffee pot?

 **STEFFES**



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