

Watts New

October, 2021

From The Desk Of . . . Don Smith, Manager

The season is changing! I woke this morning to a pretty good frost on the cars which led to the question, “What do I have to do before the heavy freeze?!” This wake-up call happens every year!

Last month I mentioned that we were getting ready for the Wyoming State Fair. Although we are waiting on the final fair numbers, we had many more than the 845 folks who stopped by the booth to sign up for the grand prize drawing on Saturday. We were pleased to be able to connect with and brag about the Cooperative Difference to all of these rural people. While we wait for the counts, I can tell you that the foot traffic on the midway far exceeded years past and we had some fantastic conversations with the folks that stopped in!

We had some people say that they look forward to the Cooperative booth every year and make sure to stop by to see us and what we have on display each year. We have some folks come by each day to see which co-op is represented that day and talk about the differences around the state. Some visitors know those manning the booth, deepening the Wyoming connections and while building new connections in a state that is really just a small town with long streets! If you weren't able to make the fair this year, we hope to see you next year!

On to the current happenings at the REA, we continue to work with some larger loads looking to come into our territory. They are moving forward in baby steps as there is significant cash outlays required of these members. With the political dynamics, not just nationally, but worldwide, these folks are being very cautious!

On the Tri-State front, things remain quiet at the Colorado Public Utilities Commission as we wait on the next deadline in the case. At this time, the projection is that the current case will wrap up in May of 2022. Things are not so quiet on the federal end with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The Wyoming Tri-State members have again joined together in support of Tri-State's filing of the method to determine the cost for a current Tri-State member to buy out of their contract. If you want more details on this, give me a call and we can discuss the issues. The bottom line is that most Tri-State members support the filed methodology as being fair to all members involved and will not pass a departing member's cost on to those that stay. We will see what the future holds.

If you have seen much of the news lately, you have heard the issues with supply shortages of nearly everything. Many of the reasons for the shortages in some way tie to shortages of manpower. Shortages of people in manufacturing plants. Shortages in transportation workers. Shortages in retail stores. Shortages across all parts of the supply chain. The REA is not exempt for the impacts of these shortages. Virtually all of our material and equipment has lead-times that are unreasonable. Material that normally has lead-times of a couple of weeks, now has estimated delivery times of over a year! Simple parts necessary to connect a new home are over a year out! We have been able to stay ahead of the shortages for the most part, but this will catch up to us at some point.

Now, as to why there is a shortage of manpower, I will go a little political in my thoughts and say the “government” needs to stay out of the game. Throughout the “pandemic”, the government has continued to pay people to stay home more than they did in the past, until recently. This encouragement to not work and provide these entitlement programs has caused the shortages across the supply chain and in many industries. As far back as in the writing of the Constitution of the United States, people such as James Madison have said that bad things happen when the “government” gets involved in the redistribution of money, which is exactly what the unemployment stipends are, and they have been increased since the beginning of the pandemic. There are no provisions in our constitution for the federal government to be involved in the redistribution of money. I could continue on my soapbox, but let me just say, if this shortage situation is to end, we need to get people back to work and stop doling out our tax dollars for people not to work.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve you, the great member-owners of Wheatland REA! It is also great to work with the dedicated employees at the REA and enjoy the fantastic Wyoming lifestyle! Seriously, if you want to discuss any of the items I have mentioned or have any questions about the REA, please stop in! I would love to chat!

Thanks for allowing us to serve you!



**Watts New is a publication of
Wheatland Rural Electric
Association**

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**REA WINTER HOURS
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM**

OUTAGES-OPEN 24/7

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From the Office Of RKA.....

Happy October 2021! We are on the downhill side of 2021. It just doesn't seem possible. Fall is here with the beautiful colors, the harvest and fall sports in full force.

October is National Cooperative Month across the United States. As employees of a cooperative and you as members of this co-op, we should take the time to reflect on the principles and values of belonging to a cooperative. I think the quickest and easiest way to inform someone of why it is valuable to be a part of a cooperative is to share with them the 7 Cooperative Principles:

- ◆ Voluntary and Open Membership – Anyone can join a co-op; no discrimination involved.
- ◆ Democratic Member Control – Members control the business by voting. Members' Economic Participation-All co-op members invest in their cooperative.
- ◆ Autonomy & Independence – Co-ops never compromise their autonomy or democratic member control.
- ◆ Education, Training, and Information – Co-ops provide these things to their members so they can contribute effectively to the success of the co-op.
- ◆ Cooperation Among Cooperatives – Co-ops believe working together is the best strategy to empower their members and build a stronger co-op economy.
- ◆ Concern for Community – Co-ops are community minded by contributing to the development of their communities by sourcing and investing locally.

If you would like more information about these 7 important principles, please give us a call. We would be more than happy to explain any of them to you.

During the month of October, you should be receiving your capital credit allocation statement for the calendar year 2020. This is to let you know what was allocated to your account for that year based on operating margins for the year and what you paid to us in energy \$\$\$. This is NOT a notice of the check that you will get in 2021 if the board decides to retire capital credits. Again, any questions, please let me know.

So, the 2021 budget is upon us and again, my crystal ball is fogged. I spoke about how difficult budgeting was in 2020 because of the COVID pandemic, and this year has not been any different in terms of chaos. Purchasing materials has been a pretty big factor this year, and timing of when we receive items has been a guessing game. Our large power pumping members continue to remain strong, but what's going to happen to the market? The everchanging dynamics of the production of electricity keeps us on our toes as G & T's are trying to figure out state and federal rules and regulations. We, as the management staff, always think about keeping costs down so that we can continue to avoid a rate increase.

Home is again quiet except that we have been doing quite a bit of fall fishing. Dogs are excited for fall as it's that time of the year that they get to go hunting! All my hubby must do is grab his hunting boots and they know exactly what they get to do for the day. I go and enjoy watching them work the fields during hunting. They are lazy doggies at home but out in the field, don't get in their way.... they are on a mission!

Until next month....



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR HUNTERS

- *Take notice of posted warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.
- *Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- *Know where power lines and equipment are located on the land where you hunt.
- *Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- *Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.
- *Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Any non-electrical equipment attached to a pole can pose an obstruction and serious hazards to our line crew.



Happy Halloween!

- Why wouldn't the skeleton go into the woods?**
-He didn't have any guts
- What do mummies listen to on Halloween?**
-Wrap music
- What is a Vampire's favorite fruit?**
-A neck-aurine

***Please be extra careful, and watch out for all the little goblins while you are driving around on Halloween!



It's time to prepare for winter!

- Check your heating system
- Caulk and seal cracks
- Clean your gutters/check drainage
- Clean your chimney
- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Don't forget to change your furnace filter every three months
- Prep your vehicles



**Reminder
November 7th
Daylight
Saving time
Ends! Move
your clock
back an hour.**



PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE YOUR POWER GOES OUT...

Top arrow...
Your meter

If the meter readout window is blank, you have no power to your service. **CALL US.**

Bottom arrow...
Your breakers

If the readout window is on, check your breakers below it. If they are in the "off" position, try to reset them. If they will not reset, the problem is somewhere in your wire or equipment. We are not allowed to work on the member-owner's side of the service and you need to call an electrician. One last step, which should probably be your first step. Before going out to your meter, check the breakers in your home's breaker panel.



To enroll, call our office at 307-322-2125 or you can sign up on our website. www.wheatlandrea.com.

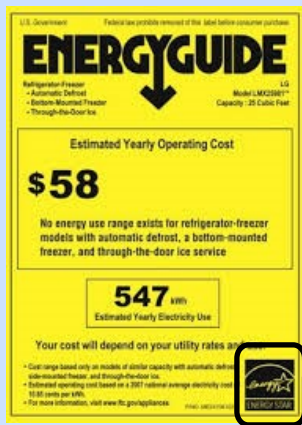
REBATES



Wheatland REA gives rebates for Energy Star rated appliances.

Just look at the yellow energy guide on your appliance to find out if it qualifies for a rebate.

Rebates must be applied for within 120 days of purchase.



This is what you are looking for.

LIEAP

Administered by the Wyoming Department of Family Services to help low-and fixed-income households to pay their energy bills during the winter months. The federally-funded program gives priority to the elderly (60+), disabled and/or those with young children.

To fill out an application go to www.lieapwyo.org or call 1-800-246-4221 or stop by our local DFS office.

***We apologize, last month a digit was left off of the phone number.

The office is open
Monday-Friday
8:00 am to 4:30 pm

VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11TH



VETERANS, WE WANT YOU!

Let us honor you and your service on Veterans Day. On Thursday, November 11th at the Agriplex, 59 Antelope Gap Rd., Wheatland from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Veterans Day luncheon, sponsored by Ora Call American Legion Post 10 Auxiliary will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Bring your appetite!

Wheatland REA is very proud of our Veterans. If you, or someone you know has military memorabilia from your or their service we would



be honored to include it in our Veterans' honor display. Let the community see what you or a loved one did for our freedom. For more information, please call 322-2125 and ask for Al or Becky.

PLAN TO ATTEND BECAUSE...



WE WANT YOU!



www.wheatlandrea.com