



Volts and Jolts

Published monthly for the members of
RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

SERVING THE FOUR-COUNTY AREA OF MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE AND POLK

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RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

MAY 2012

Power Savers program incentives available

As a directive from the state legislature, Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) must spend money on conservation programs that yield electric energy savings. Energy conserved must equal 1.5 percent of the Cooperative's total annual kilowatt hour sales.

To help meet this directive the Cooperative is offering Power Savers.

Residential offerings span from a \$2 rebate on compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) to \$400 per ton on a geothermal, closed loop heat pump.

Business incentives apply for lighting, air conditioning, air source heat pumps, geothermal heat pumps, chillers, motors, variable (3612002.01 Henry Panek) frequency drives, and Energy Star food service equipment.

Rebate forms that list the offerings are posted on RLEC website, www.redlakeelectric.com.

The forms are also available from the Cooperative or local electrical and heating/cooling contractors.

The accompanying tables list many of the incentives.

Custom applications may also apply to business customers. Most energy conservation measures can be explored to see if the measure qualifies for an incentive.

For additional information, contact RLEC at 253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

More incentives on page 5

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Business Lighting Incentives –New Construction

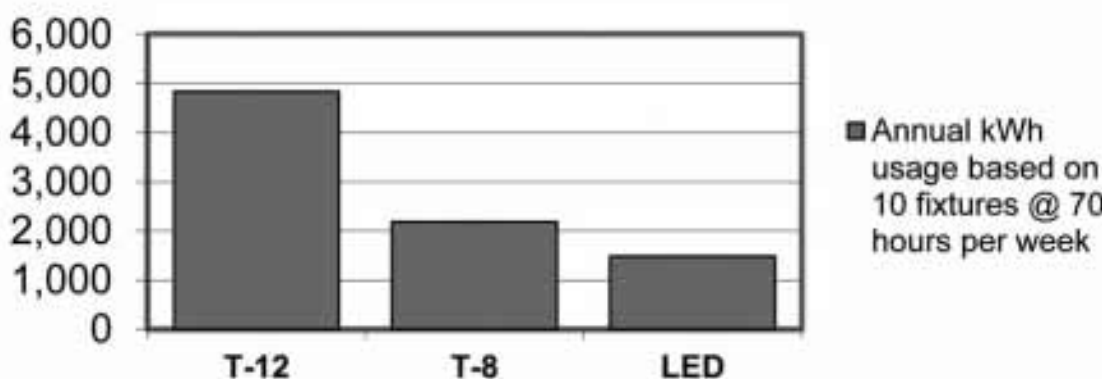
Lighting - New Construction <i>(Unless noted, must be used for lighting with a minimum of 1,800 hours of operation per year)</i>		
High Performance (Super) T8 Fluorescent Systems (CEE Qualified Only)		
T8 4ft. High Performance	1-lamp	\$6/unit
	2-lamp	\$7/unit
	3-lamp	\$12/unit
	4-lamp	\$14/unit
Both ballasts and lamp must be from CEE approved list and meet the CEE specifications for High Performance T8 Systems in order to qualify.		
Low-Wattage T8 Fluorescent Systems		
T8 4ft. Low Wattage 25W and 28W Systems	1-lamp	\$6/unit
	2-lamp	\$7/unit
	3-lamp	\$12/unit
	4-lamp	\$14/unit
Lamps and ballasts must meet the CEE specifications for High Performance T8 Systems.		
T8 High-Bay Fluorescent Fixtures with T8 Lamps and Electronic Ballasts		
High-Bay T8 Fixtures – 4 ft. Lamps	3-lamp	\$45/unit
	4-lamp	\$70/unit
	6-lamp	\$85/unit
	8-lamp	\$100/unit
Install T8 fluorescent high-bay fixtures using recommendations from lighting professionals that use lighting design software to match the most efficient design to actual lighting needs.		
Typically used instead of pulse start metal halide fixtures.		
See "Commercial Lighting" at www.cee.org for approved lamp and ballast list. However if the ballast has a NEMA premium label it automatically qualifies.		
T5HO High-Bay Fluorescent Fixtures with T5 High Output Lamps and Electronic Ballasts		
TSHO 4 ft. High-Bay Fixtures	3-lamp	\$70/unit
	4-lamp	\$90/unit
	6-lamp	\$125/unit
Install TSHO high-bay fixtures using recommendations from lighting professionals that use lighting design software to match the most efficient design to actual lighting needs.		
Typically used instead of pulse start metal halide fixtures.		
All fluorescent fixtures must utilize electronic ballasts and T8 or T5 lamps. Ballasts shall have a power factor greater than 90%. Harmonic distortion of ballasts shall not exceed 20%. For 8-foot fluorescent ballasts, the total harmonic distortion shall not exceed 30%.		
LED and Induction Fixtures		
LED or Induction Fixtures (Garage or Exterior use)		
75 W – 104W fixture with equivalent light output to 125W – 175W or greater HID fixture	\$80/unit	LED garage and exterior fixtures should have a minimum efficiency of 25 lumens per watt.
105W – 149W with equivalent light output to 175W – 249W or greater HID fixture	\$100/unit	
150W – 240W with equivalent light output to 250W – 400W or greater HID fixture	\$120/unit	LED and Induction Technology must be complete fixtures with a total power reduction of 40% or more, compared to equivalent light output HID's.
Exterior Use Only		
450W – 600W with equivalent light output to 750W – 1,000W or greater HID Fixture	\$225/unit	

QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. (RLEC) will pay cash rebates to commercial and industrial customers for the installation of qualifying lighting equipment to replace inefficient light fixtures in existing buildings. The maximum rebate per member is \$15,000 and cannot exceed 75% of the project cost, including materials & labor. The chart below shows the energy savings advantage of replacing older style (T-12) fluorescent tube lighting with the new style (T-8) energy efficient 4 foot or 4 foot LED lamp fixture. Contact RLEC today and find out more about our commercial lighting retrofit rebate program.

4 foot Tube Lighting comparison.



May is National Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and Red Lake Electric Cooperative is joining with the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) to raise awareness about potential home electrical hazards and the importance of electrical safety.

In addition to the overarching campaign theme of emerging (3313001.02 Larry D. Smnsky) technologies

and the electrical hazards associated with them, ESFI is reminding consumers about the importance of home safety devices that provide safety enhancements without requiring major renovations. These devices include arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs), ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), and tamper resistant receptacles (TRRs).

Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs)

Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs)

- An arc fault is a dangerous electrical problem caused by damaged, overheated, or stressed electrical wiring or devices.

- Arcing faults are one of the major causes of the more than 50,000 home electrical fires that occur each year in the United States.

- AFCIs replace standard circuit breakers in the home's electrical service panel and provide a higher level of electrical fire protection by detecting hazardous arcing conditions and shutting down the electricity before a fire can start.

- While AFCIs were originally only required to protect bedroom circuits, the 2011 National Electrical Code (NEC) requires that this technology be installed in additional areas of the home, including dining rooms and living rooms.

- Although the new safety requirements apply to newly constructed homes, older homes with aging wiring systems can also benefit from the added protection provided by AFCIs.

- AFCIs should only be installed or replaced by a licensed, qualified electrician.

- AFCIs must be tested monthly to ensure they are working properly.



Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)

- A GFCI is a device designed to protect people from shock and electrocution.

- GFCIs constantly monitor electricity flowing in a circuit, and quickly switch off power if they sense any loss of current.

- GFCIs could prevent over two-thirds of home electrocutions that occur each year according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

- GFCIs can be installed at the main service panel, in place of standard electrical outlets, or can be used as a portable device.

- Typically, GFCIs are installed in areas where water and electricity are in close proximity, such as the bathroom, garage, kitchen, and basement.

- GFCIs should be tested monthly, as they can be damaged as a result of voltage surges from lightning, utility switching or normal usage.

- While GFCIs should be installed by a licensed electrician, portable GFCIs require no tools to install.



Tamper Resistant Receptacles (TRRs)

Tamper Resistant Receptacles (TRRs)

- TRRs look just like ordinary outlets, but are designed with spring-loaded receptacle cover plates that close off the receptacle openings, or slots.

- When equal pressure is simultaneously applied to both sides, the receptacle cover plates open to allow the standard plug to make contact with the receptacle contact points.

- Without simultaneous pressure, the cover plates remain closed, preventing insertion of foreign objects and protecting your children from painful, traumatic electrical injuries.

- Every year in the United States, more than 2,400 children under ten years old are treated in hospital emergency rooms for electric shock or burns caused by tampering with a wall outlet, which could be prevented by installing TRRs in the home.

- Tamper resistant receptacles have proven to be so effective that the 2011 National Electrical Code (NEC) requires installation of TRRs in all new homes.

- TRRs should be installed by a licensed, qualified electrician.



The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May to increase public awareness of the electrical hazards around us at home, work, school, and play. ESFI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety. For more information about ESFI and electrical safety, visit www.electrical-safety.org.

Avoid electrical fires at home

It is estimated that more than 30,000 non-fatal electrical shock accidents occur each year. The National Safety Council estimates that between 600 and 1,000 people die each year from electrocution.

Create a safer home by making a check for electrical fire and shock hazards:

Electrical outlets – Check for loose-fitting plugs, which can be a shock or fire hazard. Replace missing or broken wall plates (4314006.03 David Willis) so wiring and components are not exposed. If you have young children in the home, check that unused outlets are covered.

Plugs – Never force them into outlets. Don't remove the grounding pin (third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two-conductor outlet. Avoid overloading outlets with adapters and too many appliance plugs.

Cords – Make sure they are not frayed or cracked, placed under carpets or rugs, or located in high traffic areas. Do not nail or staple them to walls, floors or other objects.

Extension cords – Use them on a temporary basis only. They are not intended as permanent household wiring. Make sure they have safety closures to protect young children from shock and mouth burn injuries.



Light bulbs – Check the wattage to make sure light bulbs match the fixture requirements. Replace bulbs that have higher wattage ratings than recommended on the fixture. Make sure they are screwed in securely so they don't overheat.

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) – Make sure GFCIs are installed in your kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, workshop, basement and garage as well as on outdoor outlets. Test them monthly to ensure they're working properly.

Circuit breakers/Fuses – Fuses should be properly rated for the circuit they are protecting. If you don't know the correct rating, have an electrician identify and label the correct size to be used. Always replace a fuse with the same size

you are removing. Check that circuit breakers are working properly.

Appliances/Electronics – If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced. Look for cracks or damage in wiring and connectors. Use surge protectors to protect expensive electronics.

Electrical wiring – Wiring defects are a major cause of residential blazes. Check periodically for loose wall receptacles,

loose wires, or loose lighting fixtures. Listen for popping or sizzling sounds behind walls. Immediately shut off, then professionally replace light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that spark and flicker.

Service capacity – As you continue to upgrade your home with more lighting, appliances and electronics, your home's electrical service capacity may become overburdened. If fuses blow or trip frequently, you may need to increase the capacity of your electrical service or add new branch circuits. A qualified, licensed electrician can determine the appropriate service requirements for your home.

Source: Energy Education Council.



Manager's
Comments

by Roger Johannek



Practicing what we preach

Red Lake Electric Cooperative and the electric energy industry as a whole preach energy efficiency and energy conservation on a regular basis to their members and customers. Not only do we give you a regular dose of reminders to make efficiency upgrades in your home and business, we provide incentives/rebates to help with the expense of making upgrades to more efficient lighting, heating and other products. The list of items that qualify for rebates has evolved over the years. As older less efficient products fade from the marketplace and are replaced with products that all (or most) meet the new efficiency standards, rebates for those products are usually ended.

Just recently your Cooperative got to play the role of the customer; we completed a lighting upgrade to our office headquarters building. New more efficient T-8 lighting had been installed in parts of the office about eight years ago when a few of

the offices got a face lift. Also in 2004, when the new shop/garage was constructed, T-5 lighting was installed at the time of construction. The upgrade (1227001.04 Reed and Kristie Korpi) to more efficient lighting was completed to the remainder of the office and the older shop; basically the remainder of the headquarters facility. The upgrade consisted of removing and replacing older style T-12 four-foot fluorescent lighting with similar four-foot T-8 fluorescent fixtures and bulbs. Part of the lighting upgrade consisted of retrofitting existing T-12 fixtures by installing more efficient T-8 bulbs and ballasts.

In the office reception area, LED fixtures were selected over the T-8's as replacements for the old fixtures. LEDs are more expensive than T-8 lighting but they are also more efficient. LEDs use between 75-80 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs, 69 percent less energy than T-12 bulbs and 30 percent less ener-

gy than T-8 lighting.

Our decision to make upgrades to the office and shop was influenced by the U.S. Department of Energy mandate that will phase out production of T-12 ballasts and lamps unless they can meet stricter efficiency standards. It is expected that to keep up with federal regulations of energy efficiency, manufacturer's technology and production will be focused on T8, T5 and LED lighting systems.

The availability of lighting incentives, the reduced availability of T12 products and the added efficiency of T8 and LED lighting, were all incentives for your Cooperative to complete the upgrade to our headquarters lighting.

If you would like to see firsthand what our new T-8 or LED lighting fixtures look like or talk about what incentives are available for your lighting upgrade, please stop by or give us a call; we are happy to help you.

From the Mail Bag

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for your generous investment into my future. I am very grateful and honored to receive this scholarship, and to be able to continue my studies. Thanks again.

Nathan Bates
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

Thank you so much for selecting me to receive the Red Lake Electric Cooperative scholarship. I appreciate it very much. It will be very useful for me when I go to Bemidji State University in the fall. Thanks again.

Breanna Columbus
Red Lake Falls

Dear RLEC:

I would like to thank you for the generous scholarship of \$500. It will help with my college education. I will be going to Augsburg College next year and am excited to start.

Mollie Kanten
Crookston

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for the door prize a nice Sunbeam toaster at the annual meeting. Thanks for keeping us informed on issues and keeping the lights on. God bless your efforts.

Ollie Urdahl
Viking

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for the cordless Skil driver-drill I won at the annual meeting. Your services are great.

Gloria Rokke
Newfolden

Dear RLEC:

Thank you very much for the gift card I received at the annual meeting.

Hazel Magnuson
Newfolden

Dear RLEC:

Thank you so much for the Operation Round Up grant to the Early Childhood Family Advocate program. The funds will allow us to continue supporting families in our community.

April Ballard
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for your help at the annual Red Lake Falls ECFE Safety Camp. Thank you also for the Operation Round Up grant which is used to purchase hand-outs for the safety camp.

Red Lake Falls ECFE Staff

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule, for caring, for your help in making this a successful sixth annual Health Fair for Families, for helping to make a difference in the lives of families with young children. We couldn't have done it without you.

Head Start, Plummer ECFE,
and Oklee ECFE

Dear RLEC:

I would like to thank you for the two nice door prizes I have received in the last two years by attending the district meetings. Last year it was held in my own District. This year I attended District 8 held at St. John's Lutheran school. I

don't know if anyone else was from another District. I am glad to know other people can attend when there is not a meeting in your home District. More people should attend. I learned several things. Last year I won a 7 piece nutdriver set. This year I won a very nice Chicago Cutlery fillet knife. They will come in handy. I have also had my picture in the Volts and Jolts attending the District and Annual Meetings. It was a nice surprise to spot it and fun to see people I know. Thank you.

Sherry Sorenson
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for your generous contribution to the Marshall County Central after prom party. Our theme this year was Viva Las Vegas. We appreciate your support.

MCC After Prom Attendees

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for your donation to the Red Lake County Central Post Prom party. We had a great time. Thanks for helping make it all possible.

RLCC Post Prom Attendees

Dear RLEC:

We would like to thank you for your generous donation to the Goodridge Post Prom party. Your contribution helped make the 2012 Post Prom party a huge success. We all had a wonderful time.

Goodridge Post Prom
Attendees



Report from the Office

by Shirley Bregier

Spring is in full swing. Trees are beginning to sprout new buds; perennials are peaking thru the ground and the black fields are turning a lush green beginning a new growing season. Well deserved congratulations are flowing to the students who are graduating and beginning a new phase of their life. I love this time of year, a time of new beginnings!

This is the time of the year for a new beginning with one of our cooperative services, budget billing. Budget billing is a service that Red Lake Electric offers our residential customers to help even out your electric bills for the year. If you don't like to budget your electric bill payments around the higher electric bills you (5833001.04 Rick Beauchane) have during the winter months, budget billing may be of interest to you. Here is how it works. Your usage for the previous 12 months will be averaged and calculated based on the current electric rate to get your monthly budget payment amount. Your budget billing will start in May so your account will start to build a credit balance over the summer months. That way when the larger bills arrive with the cold next winter you have a balance available to even out those bills. We will review your account every 6 months to compare your actual energy usage costs to your budget amount. If there is a significant difference, we will adjust your monthly amount up or down accordingly. The electric bill you receive each

month will continue to show your actual monthly usage and billing calculations to allow you to also monitor your electric bill. If at any time you notice a significant difference you can call and ask us to review your account and reevaluate your budget amount. Keep in mind that we normally want you to build up a credit over the summer months. If you enroll in budget billing it works real well with our auto pay program where we automatically deduct the amount of your electric bill from your banking

account on the due date. These have been great programs for those who have enrolled. Give it a try! You can opt out at any time if it doesn't work for you.

If you want to enroll in either of these or if you have a comment or concern you can e-mail us at redlake@minnkota.com or call our office at 218-253-2168 or 1-800-245-6068. Till next time, enjoy the nice weather and whether it be farming, fishing, biking or just being outdoors - Remember SAFE-TY FIRST!

Closed Memorial Day

In respectful remembrance,
Red Lake Electric Cooperative's
headquarter facilities will be closed
Monday, May 28
in observance of Memorial Day.

In case of an electrical outage
or emergency, dial the after-hour
phone number 218-253-2200.

May we all remember those
who have gone before us,
especially those who have sacrificed
their lives for our freedom.



Correction

In the April issue of the *Volts and Jolts*, the picture of Arlen Hofstad of Trail was incorrectly identified as Arlen Koskela.

After-Hours
Outage Phone
218-253-2200

Mission Statement

It is the mission of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to enhance the quality of life for people of our service area by consistently providing quality electric service and other valued services while holding our employees, our community and our environment in high regard.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems



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Cooperative, Inc.

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Things you should know
about your electric service

BILLINGS AND COLLECTION

You will receive your energy bill on or near the 20th of each month.

Payment of your monthly energy bill is due on the 20th of the month. You may pay your bill in person at RLEC during office hours, use the 24-hour drive-up drop box located next to the RLEC office, by Auto Pay, or by mail. Payment must be in the office, drop box, Auto Pay, or in the mail, as evidenced by the postmark, by the 5th day of the following month to avoid a late payment charge. A 1 1/2% monthly late payment charge will be computed on delinquent energy bills, the minimum late payment charge will be \$1.00.

If your payment is not received by the 15th of the month, a final notice of disconnection statement will be included on your following bill. The final notice statement will notify you when your electric service will be disconnected if the delinquent amount remains unpaid. If an employee is sent to disconnect your electric service, a \$50 collection fee will be charged to your account, even if you pay the collector.

To have a disconnected service reconnected, all amounts owing, a \$50 reconnection fee, and a security deposit must be paid. If the service must be reconnected after normal working hours, a \$100 reconnection fee must be paid.

BAD CHECKS

A \$15 charge will be levied each time a check is returned because of nonsufficient funds, account being closed or payment stopped.

OUTAGES

In case your electricity goes out, please do the following:

1. Check your fuses or breakers at the yard pole or meter pedestal.
2. Call your neighbor to see if they are out of electricity also.
3. Call the RLEC office (218-253-2168 or 1-800-245-6068) during working hours or 218-253-2200 after hours. We will accept collect calls for outages only.

METER TESTS

RLEC has a schedule in place to have its meters periodically tested for accuracy. Results from these tests show that meters generally slow down with age; however, if you think that your meter is recording too much usage, RLEC will test it for accuracy. You must pay a test fee in advance of the test. If the meter test shows that the meter was inaccurate, the test fee will be refunded to you.

STOPPED METERS

If you find your meter has stopped and you are using electricity, please contact the office immediately so we can replace it. Average consumption will be billed to the member for the time the meter was stopped so there is no advantage in not reporting a stopped meter.

METER READINGS

An automated meter reading system is utilized to obtain monthly meter readings. Although the system is normally reliable, there is always a chance that the correct reading has not been transmitted to the office for billing. Customers should periodically read their meter and compare it to the reading on the billing statement. If the actual reading is not close to the billing statement reading, please call the office.

GENERAL SERVICE RATES

Facilities charge variable \$27 to \$35 month
April-December9.5¢ Kwh
January-March9.9¢ Kwh
Multiphase users add \$22/month cost of service charge.

Standby, \$12/month (meter disconnected but the power line retained; standby is not available on services larger than 15 KVA transformer capacity).

Security light: high pressure sodium, \$8/month; mercury vapor, \$9/month; water heater flat credit, \$7/month (January-April billing); off-peak equipment charge, \$5.50/month per heat meter; off-peak energy rate: 5.5¢/kWh long-term control, 7.5¢/kWh short-term control.

WE PROUDLY PRESENT TO YOU

The Red Lake Electric Cooperative
Customer Service Guarantee



It's short and simple! Red Lake Electric Cooperative employees will meet or exceed your expectations of friendly, courteous service and will meet any commitments they make to you. If your expectations of the service provided by our employees is not met, please contact me at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative office, 253-2168. You will receive \$5.00 for your inconvenience and our promise to serve you better in the future. Our employees' commitment to quality customer service makes this guarantee possible.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

ROGER JOHANNEK
General Manager

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.
VOLTS & JOLTS

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NOTICE

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of the Volts & Jolts are the names and account numbers of five RLEC members. They will appear within the articles in parenthesis as such (9999999.99 Roger P. Member). If you find your name and account number, clip it out and send it with your next payment. You will be credited with \$5 on your electric bill.

Recipe corner

Layered Spinach Salad

1/2 to 3/4 lb. fresh spinach
1/2 medium cucumber, thinly sliced
1/2 c. thinly sliced radishes
1/4 c. thinly sliced green onions
2 hard-cooked eggs, sliced
3/4 c. ranch-style salad dressing
5 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled
1/2 c. Spanish peanuts

Tear spinach into bite-size pieces and arrange in the bottom of a salad bowl. Evenly layer cucumbers, radishes, green onions and eggs. Spread dressing over top. Cover; chill up to 24 hours. Just before serving, sprinkle with bacon and peanuts. Yield: 6 servings.

Heavenly Cherry Angel Food Trifle

5 c. angel food cake cubes
1/4 c. cherry liqueur, optional
1 c. confectioners' sugar
1 pkg. (3 oz.) cream cheese, softened
1 carton (8 oz.) frozen whipped topping, thawed, divided
1/2 c. toasted chopped pecans
1 can (21 oz.) cherry pie filling

Place cake cubes in large bowl. Sprinkle with liqueur if desired; let stand 30 minutes. In a medium bowl, combine confectioners' sugar and cream cheese; beat until blended. Reserve 2 tablespoons whipped topping; fold remaining topping into cheese mixture. Stir topping mixture and pecans into cake cubes; mix well. Spoon cake mixture into trifle dish or a deep salad bowl. Spread cherry filling evenly over top. (Or, if desired, layer one-half cake mixture and cherry filling; repeat layers.) Cover; refrigerate at least 3 hours. Garnish with reserved topping. Yield: 8 to 10 servings.

Ultimate Strawberry Pie

Crust:
1-1/2 c. all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp. salt
2 Tbsp. sugar
1/2 c. vegetable oil
2 Tbsp. cold milk

Filling:
2 pkg. (one 8 oz., one 3 oz.) cream cheese, softened
4 Tbsp. sugar
1 qt. fresh whole strawberries, divided
2 squares (1 oz. each) semisweet chocolate, melted
1 Tbsp finely chopped pistachios, pecans or walnuts

Combine all crust ingredients; press onto the bottom and sides of a 9-inch pie plate. Do not prick. Bake at 400 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes or until golden brown. Cool. In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Add about 3/4 c. of the strawberries; beat until just bits of berry remain. Spread into cooled pie shell. Melt chocolate over low heat; dip tips of remaining strawberries into chocolate. Arrange, tips up, over cream cheese layer. Sprinkle with nuts. Chill thoroughly. Cut with a sharp knife. Yield: 8 servings.

Glazed Strawberry Tart

1-1/3 c. all-purpose flour
1/2 c. finely ground almonds
1/3 c. sugar
1 tsp. grated lemon rind
1/4 tsp. salt
6 Tbsp. (3/4 stick) cold butter, cut into pieces
1 egg
1 tsp. vanilla extract
3/4 c. seedless raspberry or strawberry jam
1 tsp. lemon juice
2 pints strawberries, hulled and sliced
Sweetened whipped cream (optional)

Stir together flour, almonds, sugar, lemon rind and salt in a large bowl. Cut butter into flour mixture with a pastry blended or 2 knives, until coarse crumbs form. Whisk together egg and vanilla in a small bowl; stir into flour mixture until a dough forms. Shape into a disk. Wrap in plastic; refrigerate for at least 1 hour or overnight.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour a baking sheet. Place dough on baking sheet; pat into a 10-inch circle, forming a high edge. Pierce bottom of dough all over with a fork. Bake until slightly browned, about 25 minutes. Place baking sheet on a wire rack and cool for 10 minutes; transfer shell to rack to cool completely.

Melt jam with lemon juice in a small saucepan over low heat until spreadable. Spread 1/2 cup jam mixture over bottom of shell. Arrange berries on top, cut sides down. Brush with remaining jam mixture. Serve with whipped cream on the side, if desired. Yield: 8 servings.

Chocolate Berry Shortcakes

2 c. baking mix
2 Tbsp. unsweetened cocoa powder
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
3/4 c. low-fat vanilla yogurt
3 Tbsp. honey
2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
2 c. sliced strawberries
1 Tbsp. sugar
1-1/2 c. sweetened whipped cream or nondairy whipped topping

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Combine baking mix, cocoa and nutmeg in a medium bowl; mix well. Add yogurt, honey and oil, stirring until a soft dough forms.

Drop dough by large spoonfuls onto an ungreased baking sheet, 1 inch apart, forming 6 shortcakes. Bake until a toothpick inserted in centers comes out clean, about 15 minutes. Place baking sheet on a wire rack and cool for 20 minutes.

Combine strawberries and sugar in a small bowl. Slice each cooled shortcake in half horizontally; place bottom halves on individual plates. Divide whipped cream and strawberries among shortcake bottoms. Top with remaining shortcake halves. Serve immediately. Yield: 6 shortcakes.

Easy Chocolate Lover's Cheesepie

3 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
3/4 c. sugar
3 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 c. (12 oz. pkg.) Hershey's mini chips semi-sweet chocolate, divided
1 extra serving size pkg. graham cracker crumb crust (9 oz.)
2 Tbsp. whipped cream

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Beat cream cheese and sugar in a large bowl with mixer until well blended. Add eggs and vanilla; beat well. Stir in 1-2/3 cups small chocolate chips; pour into crust.

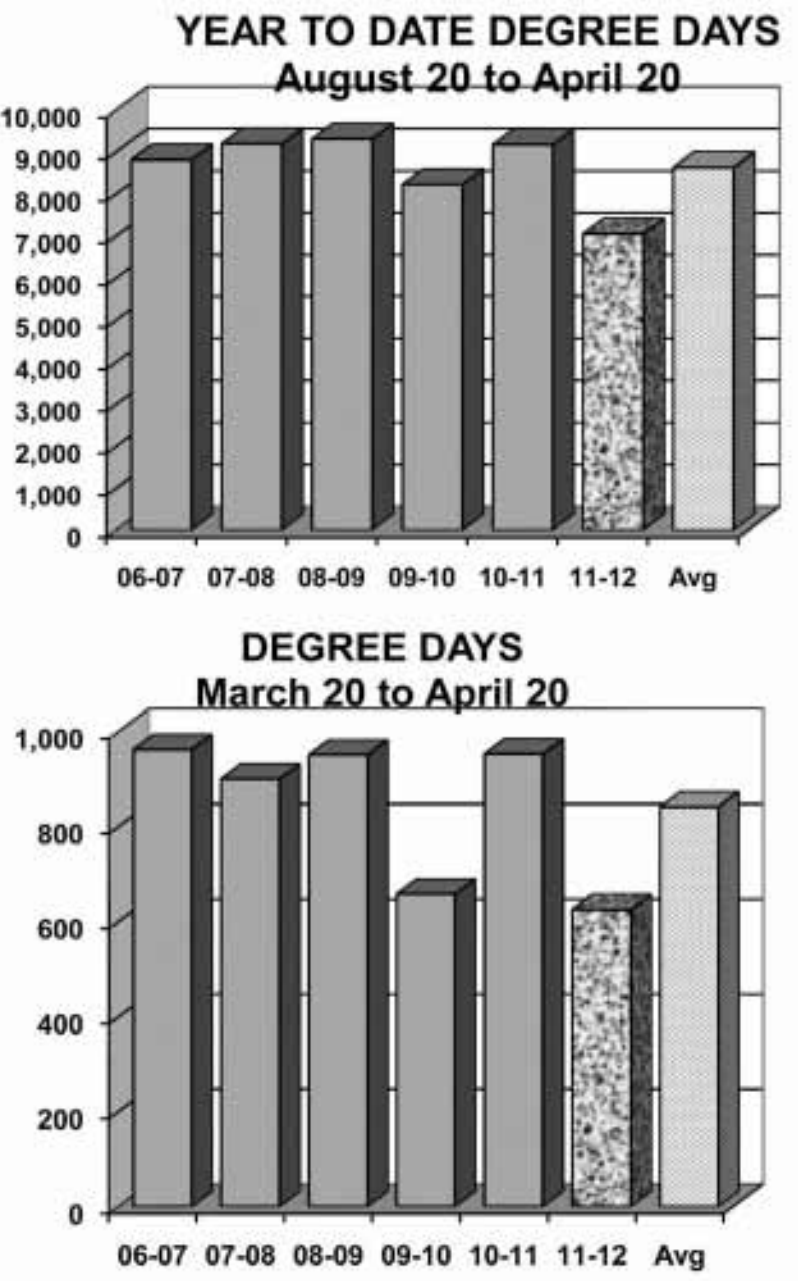
Bake 10 minutes. Without opening oven door, reduce temperature to 250 degrees; continue baking 30 minutes or just until set. Remove from over to wire rack. Cool completely. Cover; refrigerate until thoroughly chilled.

Place remaining 1/3 cup chips and whipped cream in small microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on High (100%) 20 to 30 seconds or just until chips are melted and mixture is smooth when stirred. Cool slightly; spread over top of cheesepie. Refrigerate 15 minutes or until topping is set. Cover; refrigerate leftover cheesepie. Yield: 10 servings.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.			
Operating Report			
MONTHLY COMPARISON			
	MARCH 2011	MARCH 2012	
Total Revenue	\$ 1,185,667	\$ 1,309,986	
Total Margins	\$ 167,381	\$ 278,891	
Cost of Power	\$ 781,073	\$ 855,182	
KWH's Purchased	14,674,516	12,029,557	
Capital Credits Paid to Estates . . .	\$ 0	\$ 0	
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON			
	MARCH 2011	MARCH 2012	
Total Revenue	\$ 3,980,431	\$ 4,217,853	
Total Margins	\$ 661,158	\$ 624,549	
Cost of Power	\$ 2,554,348	\$ 2,860,564	
KWH's Purchased	50,111,445	42,813,705	
New Service Connections	3	2	
Customers Served	5,193	5,216	
Capital Credits Paid to Estates . . .	\$ 12,773	\$ 17,219	
Miles of Line			
Overhead	2,324	2,324	
Underground	239	245	

DEGREE DAYS

To determine degree days, you must calculate the daily mean temperature for the time period you are measuring. Degree day computation is based on the assumption that a building does not require any heat if the outside temperature averages 65 degrees during a 24-hour period. To obtain a degree day figure, the high temperature and the low temperature for the day are added and the total divided by two. That figure is then subtracted from 65. For example, if the high temperature was 30 degrees and the low temperature 10 degrees, the figure would be 30+10=40; 40/2=20; 65-20=45. This would be a 45-degree day. The higher the degree day figure, the more heat required to warm your home.



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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Cater family enjoys the rural life near Plummer

By Heather Blodgett

Jason and Paula Cater enjoy the rural life on their farm near Plummer.

The couple, who have three sons, Adam, 11, Zachary, 8, and Jacob, 4, moved to the property in 2004 but have had a connection to it for much longer.

Paula's fraternal great-grandmother homesteaded the land many years ago. The land was passed down within the family to Paula's parents, Burton and Joyce Carlson, in 1946 and later became a century farm in 1994. The Carlsons raised both beef and dairy cattle.

Paula spent her childhood growing up there until she left to attend North Dakota State University in Fargo, N.D. There she met Jason, originally from Middle River, as they were both studying veterinary science.

"I always enjoyed science and animals," stated Paula of her chosen field of study. "It just came naturally."

They both agreed that they wanted to live in a rural area and a career in veterinary science would fit with that desire. Jason moved to St. Paul to pursue his doctor of veterinary science degree and Paula followed the next year to do the same. It was that year they were married.

Living in the Twin Cities caused them both to realize that they definitely missed being close to family and the rural life they enjoyed in northern Minnesota. Paula proclaimed, "We're not city people. We're rural oriented. I always will be."

She enjoys the independence and the freedom that lifestyle offers compared with the fast paced city life and she jokes, "Don't fence me in!"

Both graduated with doctor of veterinary science degrees, Jason in

The Cater family Paula, Jason, Jacob, Zachary and Adam.

1994 and Paula in 1995, and returned to the area immediately following Paula's graduation, as both had secured positions at the Red Lake Falls Veterinary Clinic.

As they both grew up on cattle

farms, they knew they were destined to continue in the business.

Paula reminisced how during calving, even as a child, she would go out to the cows as she wanted to be with them. She felt compelled to be out there with the mother and calf. Her parents felt they had to go check on her as she would always be out there with the cows, a habit that continued into adulthood as she still went out there to be among the

cattle.

In 1998, the couple decided to start farming beef cattle and purchased 10 heifers of the Gelbvieh Angus cross, a hybrid. They first rented land from Paula's parents for the pasture and later purchased the farm from them. Her father, Burton, was still farming at the time. "He's the real farmer," she said of his dedication to the farm lifestyle. He worked hard on the farm with the animals and haying right up until his death in 2003. Joyce, Paula's mother, passed away shortly after in 2004.

The Caters moved onto the homestead and expanded the beef cattle operation. Over the years it grew to 40 head of cattle. "It was an interest we shared from the beginning," explained Paula.

Jason echoed the idea. "We both grew up farming. We enjoyed it. It's a hobby, and the hobby became a job. What else would I do?" explained Jason of their shared background with the industry.

Both have since left the Red lake Falls Veterinary Clinic. Jason is employed full-time as a veterinarian with the Minnesota Board of Animal Health and Paula is at home working on the farm, especially during calving, and raising her children.

They have also added two horses and two ponies to the farm to fulfill Paula's love for horses and trail riding. "It's an old passion of mine," she stated. "Adam and I enjoy riding together." As her other boys grow older she hopes to share her passion with them as well. In his spare time, Jason enjoys hunting, trapping and fishing with his sons.

The farm life has also had a positive impact on their children. "Adam and Zach each have a cow of their own. They both like the cows and they help," explained Jason. "It's good for them and they get to learn a lot."

The couple emphasizes safety on the farm with their boys. Adam has started to learn to cut hay and assist with vaccines and other duties.

"Jacob got to see two calves born and he thought that was cool," said Paula. He was excited that one of the cows gave birth to twins this spring and got a surprise when one of the cows licked him.

The family is content making their home on the historic and sentimental homestead. "I always hoped I'd return to the farm," said Paula fondly. "It's a wonderful place to raise a family."

Jason and Paula Cater's three sons, Adam, Zachary and Jacob enjoy life on the family farm where they raise beef cattle. The boys have fun being involved in the raising of the cattle.

Adam, Jacob and Zachary Cater enjoy taking care of the animals on the farm including their horses and ponies. Adam enjoys trail riding also.

The Caters raise beef cattle on their farm – a cross breed of Gelbvieh Angus.

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Photo by Megan McKoy-Noe

Plan ahead to avoid being a victim of a lightning strike.

Be alert to avoid lightning

Did you know lighting can strike even if it's not raining? Lightning strikes kill 55 to 60 people every year, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). More than 400 people are hit by a bolt each year.

But if you prepare before an outdoor event and know how to protect yourself, you can keep your family safe from lightning. Follow these tips from NOAA:

- Plan ahead. Just as you have an emergency plan for fires and weather events like tornadoes, form an action plan for lightning. Choose a safe shelter, and time how long it takes to get there.
- Check the weather. A simple forecast can tell you whether you should delay outdoor activities to avoid a dangerous situation.
- Look to the sky. Dark skies, whipping winds, and lightning flashes are all signs that you should seek shelter.
- Seek shelter. As soon as you hear a rumble of thunder, head for a safe place—an enclosed structure, one with plumbing and wiring is best, or a car. Open-air shelters, sheds, and covered porches are

often not safe places. Avoid tall trees that stand alone, towers, and poles, as well as metal fences and other conductors of electricity. And keep out of open areas, so that you're not the tallest object in a field.

- Wait it out. Leaving safe shelter too quickly makes you vulnerable to lightning strikes. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder before you head back outdoors.
- Avoid corded phones and appliances. If you're indoors when a storm hits, do not use corded phones or appliances. Lightning can travel through your home's wiring. Also, water is a great conductor of electricity, so don't take a bath or shower.

If someone near you has been struck by lightning, call 911 immediately. A certified person should begin CPR right away if necessary—the victim will not have an electric charge and is safe to touch.

For more information on how to stay safe in a lightning storm, visit www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov.

Sources: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

MnDOT reminds farmers to use safe practices when planting, mowing crops in highway rights of way

The Minnesota Department of Transportation reminds farmers that planting crops within rights of way is illegal because as crops grow higher and fuller they can block motorists' vision and create other safety problems.

State law also prohibits plowing and tilling in rights of way including driving lanes, shoulders, ditches and sight corners at intersections.

"Our roadway regulation inspectors are knowledgeable and willing to help landowners adopt practices that enhance safety and the environment," said Steve Lund, MnDOT's state maintenance engineer. "The goal of these restrictions is to ensure safety and to protect roadside environments."

The department also advises that mowing and haying on rights of way may require a permit.

"Roadside conditions and right-of-way status varies," Lund said. "This requires us to consider farmers' mowing and haying rights on a case-by-case basis."

A deposit on a permit may be required and will be returned when all work has been completed in accordance with the provisions of the permit.

Permits for locations where mowing is allowed are distributed on a first-come, first served basis.

For further information regarding roadway regulations, or assistance in identifying right-of-way boundaries on a state or interstate highway, contact MnDOT Permits Offices at 218-755-6553 in Bemidji or 218- 277-7964 in Crookston.

The Gazette only

\$29 in Red Lake County

Power Savers program incentives available

Continued from front page

2012 Incentive Summary

Residential Incentives

Lighting and Appliances		
CFL Lamps	Replace incandescent bulbs with Energy Star compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)	\$2/bulb Maximum 12 CFLs/customer
Programmable Thermostat		\$25/unit
Clothes Washer	Energy Star	\$50/unit
Electric Water Heater	Minimum 80 gallon total capacity, EF ≥0.91. Must be controlled under the utility's load management program	\$150/unit
LED Recessed Downlights (complete fixture)	Energy Star	\$25/install
LED Recessed Downlights (screw in replacement)	Energy Star	\$25/install
Heating, Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC) Measures		
Air Source (ASHP)	Energy Star or 14.0 SEER / 8.25 HSPF	\$250/unit
Supplemental heating source for ASHP	Must modulate to allow Energy Star rated ASHP to operate down to 5°F, and be on load control	\$500/unit
Furnace (Air Handler) with ECM blower	Furnace with ECM blower	\$150
Mini Split/Ductless ASHP	15 SEER	\$500

New furnace/indoor unit installations. All efficiency ratings will be verified using the AHRI database (ahridirectory.org).

Geothermal Open Loop <135,000 BTUH @ 59°F	16.2 EER / 3.6 COP	\$200/ton Maximum incentive \$2,500/home
Closed Loop <135,000 BTUH @ 77°F	14.1 EER / 3.3 COP	\$400/ton Maximum incentive \$5,000/home

All efficiency ratings will be verified using the AHRI database (ahridirectory.org).

Units must meet or exceed above efficiency levels or carry an Energy Star qualification.

Requires a heat load calculation to be submitted. Incentive is based off total heating capacity for the home.

If equipped with backup electric heat, home must be on load control or demand billing per local utility offerings.

Water-to-water systems need the manufacturer's specifications indicating the equipment meets incentive requirements.

Replacement Geothermal Open Loop <135,000 BTUH @ 59°F	16.2 EER / 3.6 COP	\$100/ton Maximum incentive \$1,250/home
Closed Loop <135,000 BTUH @ 77°F	14.1 EER / 3.3 COP	\$200/ton Maximum incentive \$2,500/home

Incentive available for failed geothermal equipment only.

Entire indoor unit replacement is required to receive incentive. Replacing only the compressor will not qualify for the incentive.

Equipment must meet or exceed efficiency requirements.

Equipment being replaced must fall outside of any warranty period to receive incentive. Requires a heat load calculation to be submitted clearly delineating design temperature used for analysis, resulting heat loss, and equipment heating capacity for the home.

If equipped with backup electric heat, home must be on load control or demand billing per local utility offerings.

2012 Incentive Summary

Business Incentives – Retrofit Lighting

Lighting – Retrofit <i>(Unless noted, must be used for lighting with a minimum of 1,000 hours of operation per year)</i>			
Fluorescent T8 Lamps with Electronic Ballasts			
T8 4ft. Fixture	1-lamp	\$5/unit	Replace incandescent or T12 systems with T8 systems. Replacement must result in energy savings to qualify.
	2-lamp	\$6/unit	
	3-lamp	\$11/unit	
	4-lamp	\$13/unit	
T8 8ft. Fixture	1-lamp	\$7/unit	Retrofit of T12 8' 2-lamp fixtures with four T8 4' lamps placed end to end should be considered a T8 4' 4-lamp retrofit at \$13.00.
	2-lamp	\$9/unit	
T8 8ft. High Output Fixture	1-lamp	\$12/unit	Retrofit of T12HO 8' 2-lamp fixtures with four T8 4' lamps placed end to end should be considered a T8 4' 4-lamp retrofit at \$13.00.
	2-lamp	\$16/unit	
Reduced Wattage Fluorescent T8 Lamps Only			
40, 28W or Less 8ft. 54W or Less	\$36/lamp	Replace existing 32W 4' or 39W 8' T8 lamps with low watt T8 lamps.	
Reduced Wattage T8 Fluorescent Systems (CEE Qualified Only)			
T8 4ft. Reduced Wattage System	1-lamp	\$7/unit	Replace incandescent or T12 systems with T8 and 25 watt CEE Qualified Reduced Wattage T8 Systems. Lamps and ballasts used must meet the CEE specifications for Reduced Wattage T8 Systems.
	2-lamp	\$9/unit	
	3-lamp	\$13.50/unit	
	4-lamp	\$18/unit	
<i>Incentive shown includes low wattage fluorescent lamp incentive of \$0.50 per lamp. Replacement fixtures or lamp and ballast retrofit are eligible.</i>			
<i>See "Commercial Lighting" at www.cee1.org for approved lamp and ballast list. However if the ballast has a NEMA premium label it automatically qualifies.</i>			
High Performance (Super) T8 Fluorescent Systems (CEE Qualified Only)			
T8 4ft. High Performance	1-lamp	\$6/unit	Replace incandescent, T12 systems, or specified standard T8 systems with CEE Qualified High Performance (super) T8 systems. Lamps and ballasts used must meet the CEE specifications for High Performance T8 Systems. Replacement fixtures or lamp and ballast retrofit are eligible.
	2-lamp	\$7/unit	
	3-lamp	\$12/unit	
	4-lamp	\$14/unit	
<i>T8 4ft. High Performance – Replacing specific fixtures</i>			
2-lamp	\$6/unit	Replacing T12 6' one lamp fixture – one for one replacement only.	
	\$20/unit	Replacing T12HO 8' one lamp fixture – one for one replacement only.	
4-lamp	\$16/unit	Replacing T12 6' two lamp fixtures – one for one replacement only.	
	\$30/unit	Replacing T12HO 8' two lamp fixtures – one for one replacement only.	
<i>High Performance (super) T8 systems require manufacturer and model number for ballast and lamps used. Both ballast and lamp must be from CEE approved list to qualify. However if the ballast has a NEMA premium label it automatically qualifies.</i>			
T8 High-Bay Fluorescent Fixtures with T8 lamps and Electronic Ballasts <i>One for one replacement only. Only when replacing specific wattage HID (Metal Halide, Mercury Vapor and High Pressure Sodium) or Incandescent Fixtures.</i>			
High-Bay T8 Fixtures 4 ft. Lamps			
3-lamp	\$45/unit	Replacing 150 Watt or larger	
4-lamp	\$70/unit	Replacing 250 Watt or larger	
6-lamp	\$85/unit	Replacing 400 Watt or 749 Watt	
6-lamp	\$120/unit	Replacing 750 Watt or larger	
8-lamp	\$70/unit	Replacing 400 Watt or 749 Watt.	
8-lamp	\$100/unit	Replacing 750 Watt or larger	
<i>See approved list at www.cee1.org, under Commercial Lighting. However if the ballast has a NEMA premium label it automatically qualifies.</i>			
Compact Fluorescent Fixtures and Lamps (CFL)			
CFL Fixture	\$22/unit	Replacing incandescent. Pin based CFLs are required.	
CFL Screw-In Lamps	\$1.50/unit	Per screw-in self ballasted lamp.	
CFL Reflector Flood	\$4/unit	Replace on failure/new construction	
LED and Induction Technologies - Must be Energy Star and/or Design Light Consortium			
LED Recessed Downlights (complete fixture)	\$25/unit	Replace 60-125W incandescent.	
LED Recessed Downlights (screw in replacement)	\$5/unit	Replace 60-125W incandescent.	
LED Exit Sign Fixture ≤ 8 Watts	\$12/unit	Replace or retrofit existing sign.	
LED or Induction Fixtures - Garage or Exterior Use	\$80/unit	Replacing up to 175 Watt HID	
LED or Induction Fixtures - Garage or Exterior Use	\$100/unit	Replacing 175 Watt to 249 Watt HID	
<i>LED Exit Signs shall use 8 Watts or less, including the battery charger when active. Must meet State Fire Marshall codes and be UL-rated. LED and Induction Technology must be complete fixtures with a total power reduction of 40% or more. Lamp only replacements are not eligible for incentive. LED garage and exterior fixtures should have a minimum efficiency of 35 lumens per watt.</i>			

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Informational Web Sites

The following is a list of Web sites that can provide information and education in reference to electrical safety and energy conservation. These Web sites are listed as links on Red Lake Electric Cooperative's Web site at www.redlakeelectric.com.

- Electrical Safety Foundation International: www.esfi.org
- Alliance to Save Energy: www.ase.org
- US Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov/greenhomes
- Energy Star: www.energystar.gov
- Minnesota Safety Council: www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org
- Safe Electricity: www.safeelectricity.org
- Lighting Controls Association: www.aboutlightingcontrols.org
- US Consumer Product Safety Commission: www.cpsc.gov

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Underground fault leads to underground replacement

Red Lake Electric Cooperative has a 25 mile stretch of three phase underground cable running from the Morris Owen Substation in Thief River Falls to the Terrebonne Substation at Terrebonne. This 25 miles of underground is a vital link in the interconnection capabilities between the Morris Owen Substation, the Terrebonne Substation, and the Hazel Substation, located along highway 59 west of Seven Clans Casino. Recently a two mile piece of this underground was

replaced. The two miles runs from south of the Thief River Falls Airport to the junction of Pennington County 3 and 17 east of St. Hilaire. A fault (short) had occurred on this section of underground in 2011 and it was discovered that the neutral had corroded away. The cable had been installed in 1980. Due to the age, the deterioration of the cable, the fault, and the importance of this cable in the interconnection between three substations the cable was replaced.



Prior to the plowing of the new underground cable, line feeds in existing junction boxes were re-routed. The existing cable would be de-energized while the new cable would be plowed next to it. Jordon Gervais (in the foreground) prepares to move an elbow in a junction box to re-route a feed while Mike Wavra uses his cell phone to get clearance from another crew to make the switch.



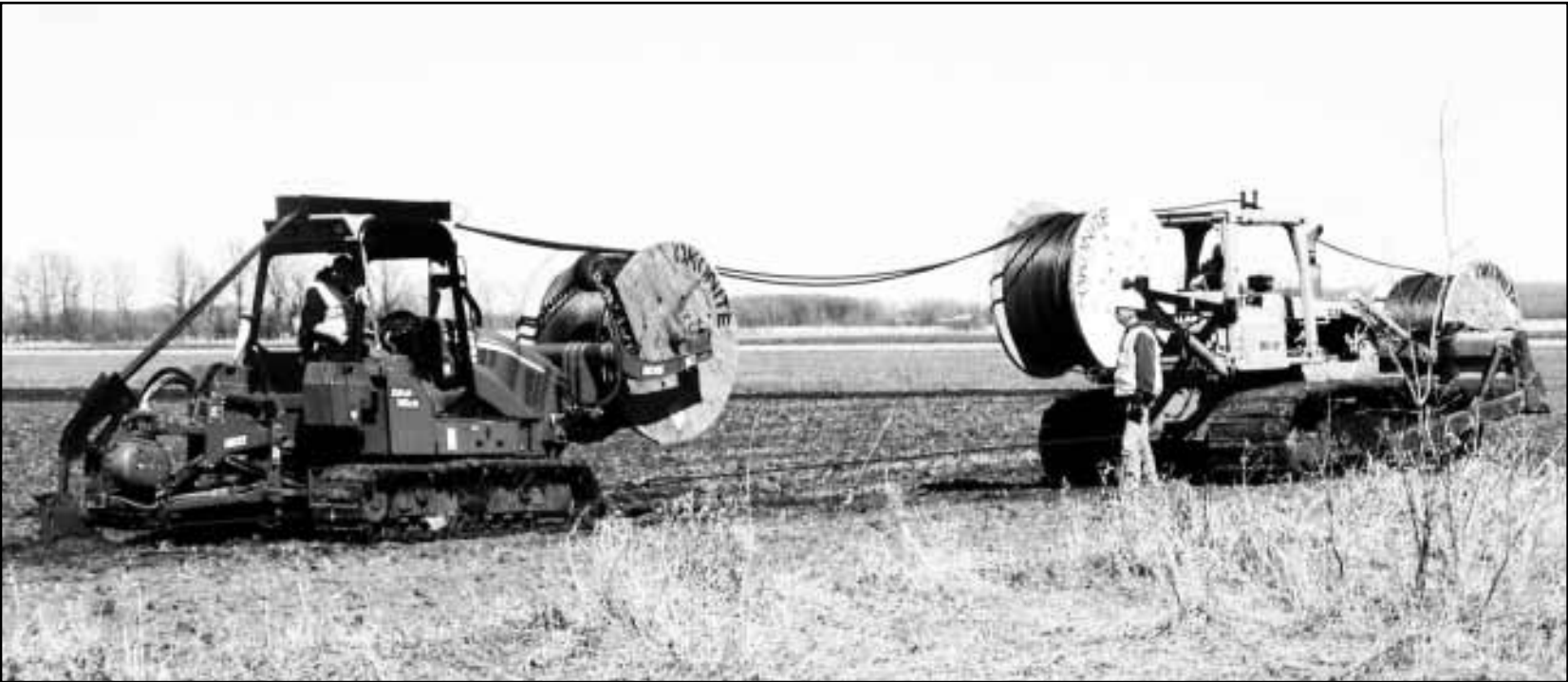
Once the new cable is plowed in, feeds in the existing junction boxes are restored to their normal positions until the new cable is terminated and ready to be energized. Prior to re-energizing an existing cable a "Hi-Pot" test must be performed on the existing cable to make sure it was not damaged during the plowing of the new cable. Wavra and Gervais perform the Hi-Pot test using insulated fiberglass sticks.



Gervais works to make the elbow termination on the new cable that will feed the underground transformer in the Ballard yard.



Aaron Derosier works to make one of the new underground cable terminations in one of several junction boxes along the two mile route.



Trudell Contracting of Warren works to plow in the new underground cable south of Harlow Johnson's. This is a three phase line which requires three cables. The crawler carries two reels of cable while the plow carries one. The cables are fed over the cab of the plow into the plow shoe.



The underground cable replacement also included new underground taps for three individual accounts along the route. These included the Harlow Johnson's, Kevin Ballard's and Mathew Towse's. A Red Lake Electric crew plows in the new underground tap to the Ballard yard.

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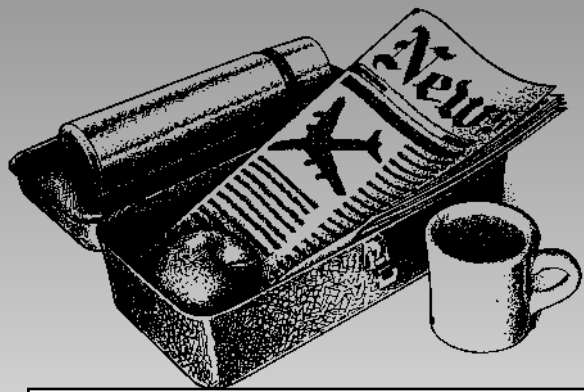
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Surge protection: critical for sensitive electronics

Computers and other electronic equipment found in nearly every home and business today are quite susceptible to sags and surges in voltage and current. They may show up as minor voltage spikes, short power interruptions or current distortions that are difficult to find, even if you know where to look. Dealing with power quality concerns requires an understanding of surge protection equipment and a plan to protect sensitive electronic devices.

Lightning strikes to homes or nearby locations are one primary cause of damage to delicate electronic equipment. Other causes like voltage spikes and multiple grounding paths can also create problems. Even minor surges can

create a malfunction that requires the device to reset or possibly even cause permanent damage.

The surge protection system outlined in this article could apply to nearly any residential or commercial setting, as well as agricultural buildings.

A properly installed transient surge suppression system includes multiple levels of protection. Beginning at the site of the utility service entrance, protection is provided through each of the building's service panels, subpanels and individual circuits that supply electricity to delicate equipment. Each level of protection is designed to remove a portion of the surge not eliminated by the preceding level.

The last level of protection is

provided at the individual circuit. This is where the lowest level of harmful disturbances will be filtered out. An outlet strip with a quality surge suppressor provides this protection.

In practice, many buildings won't need all the levels of protection. But providing protection only at the circuit level is not sufficient to guard against high-energy transient surges.

Should the building contain critical electronics that are affected by any change in current or voltage levels, the best is to provide protection at all levels.

As a minimum level of protection, experts recommend the following components be included in any surge protection system:

- Lightning arrestor on the main service pole (this is already provided by RLEC).
 - Adequate grounding for service entrance and main service pole.
 - Surge suppressor for the building electrical service panel.
 - Secondary arrestor for the individual circuit to which the electronic equipment is attached.
- To learn more contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative or your local electrician. Remember, no amount of surge protection will guarantee absolute reliability. But by understanding the causes of power quality problems and the components needed in a well-designed protection system, you will be able to avoid most costly losses in equipment and income.

DNR urges ATV operators to ride safe and ride smart

The weeks leading up to Memorial Day are a time when many people begin taking their all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) out of the garage for the summer, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It's also a time when the DNR reminds ATV owners and riders to ride safe and ride smart.

"The weather warms up, school is out, and it's the time of the year that most ATV accidents happen," said 2nd Lt. Leland Owens, DNR's recreational vehicle coordinator.

ATV accidents claimed 82 Minnesotans from 2007-2011. More than one-half of the fatal accidents involved an ATV rolling over. Four in 10 fatalities involved alcohol. Ages of those fatally injured ranged from 7 to 94 years old.

"ATVs are not babysitters," Owens said. "If you allow a youth to operate an ATV, make sure the person is trained, fits the ATV, and is constantly supervised by an adult."

Owens said the public's percep-

tion is that most ATV fatalities and accidents involve youths, but that's really not the case. Recent DNR statistics show a decline in youth-involved incidents, largely due to safety training requirements for those ages 15 and under.

"It's the adults – those who have not completed DNR ATV safety training – who are most at risk," Owens said.

More than 95 percent of those who died had not taken ATV safety training. State ATV laws require youth ages 12-15 and anyone born after July 1, 1987, who is 16 or older, to take ATV safety training before operating on public lands.

Owens encourages people to be defensive drivers while operating an ATV, since more than 65 percent of fatal ATV accidents took place in the road right-of-way. Another 25 percent of ATV fatalities happened on private property.

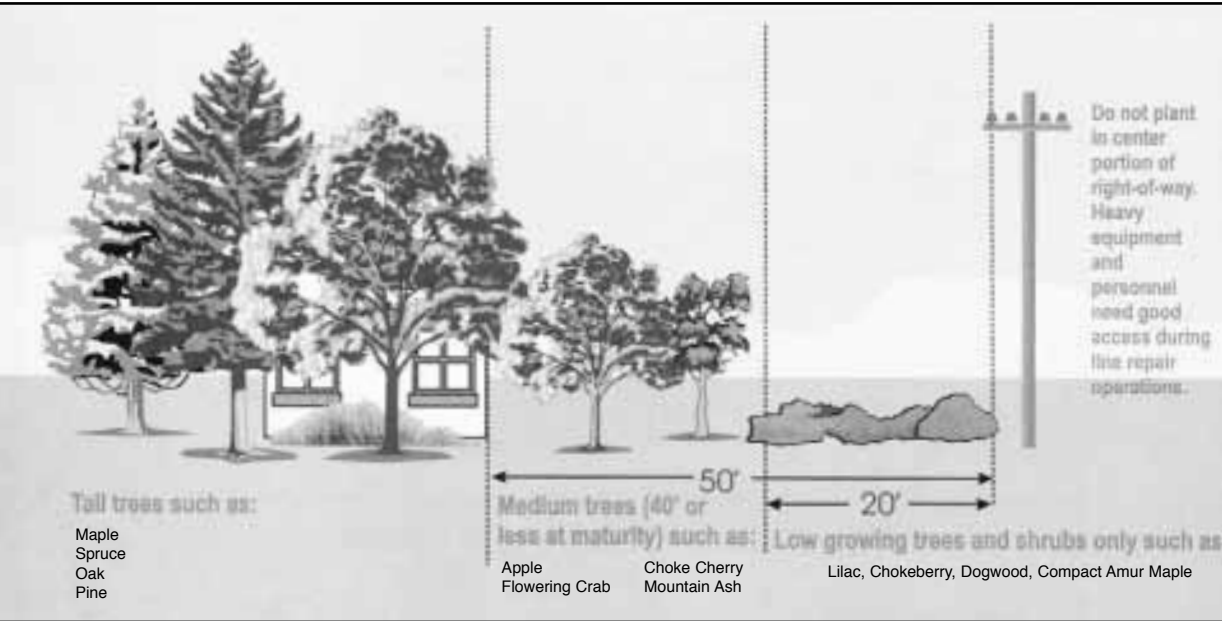
Owens urges caution to ditch riders as well. Ditches can be full of hazards such as telephone and power poles, guy wires, electrical and phone boxes, survey markers, culverts and mailboxes. Ditches along state and county roads are closed to ATVs in the agricultural zone from April 1 to Aug. 1. Owens suggests trailering machines to a designated ATV trail.

"When riding, stay on designated trails," Owens said, "Don't trespass on private property where you don't have permission to ride. And slow down, since ATVs become less stable at increased speeds."

"Always keep safety in mind," he said. "It just may save a life and ensure that each and every ATV rider returns home safely and ready for another ride."



Plant the right tree in the right place



When doing your landscaping this year, please be sure to plant trees at least 25 feet away from overhead power lines. Tall growing trees, such as maple and oak, should be located at least 50 feet from lines. Also remember to keep trees and shrubs at least eight feet away from underground lines and the front of pad mounted transformers and at least three feet from the sides.

Selecting the right tree for the right place will allow trees to develop a more natural crown and will minimize costly maintenance necessary for power line clearance.

If you have questions about the types of trees to plant and the distances to maintain from power lines, contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative at 253-2168 or 800-245-6068.



Milton R. Young Station

Milton R. Young Power Plant tour scheduled for June 12 and 13

Red Lake Electric Cooperative and Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative plan to cosponsor a tour of the Milton R. Young Power Plant June 12 and 13.

The first day of the trip will include a stop at Minnkota Power Cooperative's headquarters in Grand Forks. Time will be spent at the Ashtabula Wind Energy Center near Pillsbury, N.D. A relaxing evening will be spent at the Seven Seas Motel in Mandan, which will include a banquet sponsored by Minnkota Power.

The second day of the tour includes visiting the Milton R. Young generation station near Center, N.D. It will also include a drive through the open pit lignite mines (weather permitting) to see the mining operation first hand. You are guaranteed to have a better understanding of the process involved with generating the electricity that serves you.

The cost to participate in the tour is \$80 per person, double occupancy, \$100 single occupancy. This includes transportation, meals and lodging. The tour is open to all Red Lake Electric Cooperative members and/or spouses.

The tour group will depart from Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters in Red Lake Falls at 7 a.m. Tuesday, June 12. Approximate time of return is 9 p.m. Wednesday, June 13.

Registrations and payment are due by May 31.

If you have not partaken of this tour, sign up today for a learning experience.

AUTO PAY OFFERED BY RLEC

Red Lake Electric Cooperative is pleased to offer you Auto Pay. Now you can have your monthly energy bill paid automatically from your checking or savings account. You can receive the Auto Pay service by completing the Auto Pay sign-up sheet and returning it to Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

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Your payment will be automatically made for you on the 5th of each month. If the 5th falls on a week-

end or holiday, the payment will be made on the next business day. You will continue to receive your monthly energy bill as you have in the past, indicating the amount that will be withdrawn from your bank account. The proof of your payment will appear on your bank statement and your next month's energy bill statement.

Continue to pay your monthly bill until you are notified on your bill that the Auto Pay has been set up for you.

If you have any questions about the Auto Pay please call RLEC at 800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.

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Power Plant Tour Registration

June 12 and 13, 2012

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Return to RLEC, P.O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750, along with your check. RLEC will contact you later with details. Your check or deposit will be returned if the tour should be cancelled for some reason. If it becomes necessary for you to cancel out on the trip, it is required that you notify RLEC at least 48 hours before departure to be eligible for a refund. Registration for the trip is on a first-come, first-served basis with a limited number of openings. If you have previously partaken of the trip, you will be put on a space availability standby.