



# Volts and Jolts

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

*One of the Minnkota Power Systems*

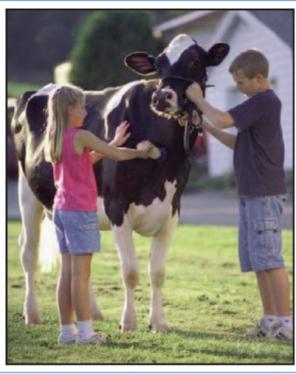
**SERVING THE FOUR-COUNTY AREA OF MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE AND POLK**

VOL. 43 – NO. 8

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

JUNE 2008

## June is Dairy Month



### FROM FARM TO TABLE ... The Milk Story

Every day, dairy farmers give their cows water to drink and a mixture of hay and grains to eat. Cows' bodies turn this food into milk. Two or three times a day, farmers milk their cows, using a special machine attached to the cows' udders. Milk is then stored in a refrigerated tank on the farm. Farmers test the milk to make sure it is wholesome. Every other day or so, trucks visit each dairy farm to pick up the milk and take it to a factory.

At the factory, workers test the milk again. Milk is pasteurized, which means it is heated up to kill any germs it may contain. Milk is also poured through tiny holes to break up solid particles. This process is called homogenization. Workers then put the milk into containers. Cartons and jugs of milk are sent to restaurants, schools and stores, where you can buy it to drink.

**June is National Dairy Month. Take a cow to lunch.**

Better yet, just have some yogurt, milk or cheese - for lunch, breakfast and dinner. Three servings a day are what the experts recommend for the right amount of calcium and nine essential vitamins and minerals that can build strong bones and healthy bodies.



- What do you call a cow that can't give milk? A milk dud.
- What is a cow's favorite music note? Beef flat.
- What do cows wear in Hawaii? Moo moos.

## RLEC announces scholarship recipients

Each year Red Lake Electric Cooperative provides scholarships for graduating seniors at each of the high schools operating throughout the Cooperative's service area. The recipients are selected by the scholarship selection committees at the high schools. There were 11 recipients this year with each student receiving \$600. The funds for these scholarships come from unclaimed capital credits.

Congratulations and best wishes to these scholarship recipients.



**TAYLOR TERPSTRA**  
Crookston High School  
Gordy and Monica Terpstra  
Crookston



**ERICA WAYNE**  
Lincoln High School  
Robert and Lynell Wayne  
Thief River Falls



**DANA DYRUD**  
Lincoln High School  
Jeff and Melody Dyrud  
Thief River Falls



**CASSIE COLUMBUS**  
Lafayette High School  
Bruce and Pam Columbus  
Red Lake Falls



**MICHELLE ROADFELDT**  
Lincoln High School  
Duane and Jane Rux  
Thief River Falls



**Brett Knott**

## Knott hired as apprentice lineman at Red Lake Electric

Brett Knott, Red Lake Falls, has been hired as an apprentice lineman at Red Lake Electric Cooperative. He will work and study through a four-year apprentice program to achieve the status of a journeyman lineman at the end of the program.

Knott worked as a part-time construction worker at the Cooperative throughout last year's construction period.

Knott is a Red Lake Falls native, having graduated from Lafayette High School. Following high school, he enrolled in the electrical lineworker training program at Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Wadena, graduating in May 2007.

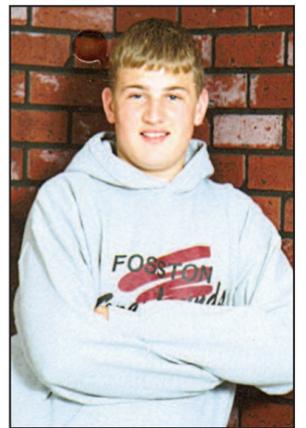
Knott is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys hunting and fishing; he also coaches youth hockey. He also (Arnold Schmitz 6121004.07) spends time on rooftops, working with his father reshingling roofs.



**MITCH KNUTSON**  
Marshall County Central  
Mark and Susan Knutson  
Newfalden



**ERLING MORAN**  
Win-E-Mac High School  
Gary and Josine Moran  
Mentor

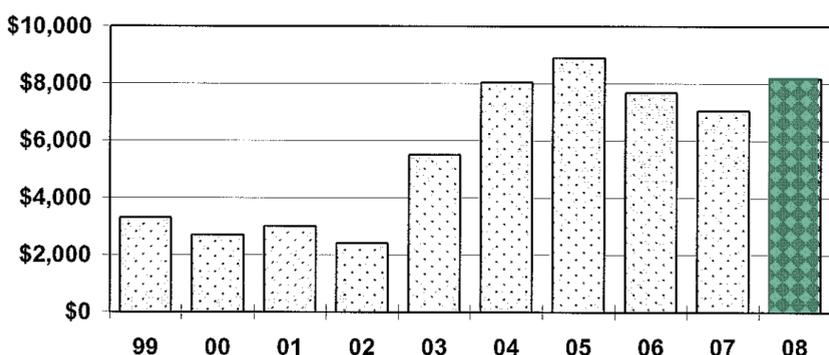


**JOE BRINKMAN**  
Fosston High School  
Orville and Shirley Brinkman  
Gully

## QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

The graph below shows the amount of money Red Lake Electric Cooperative has given in scholarships to our service area high school graduates for the past ten years. The majority of this scholarship money is funded by unclaimed Capital Credits paid out by Red Lake Electric Cooperative. The ability of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to use these unclaimed Capital Credits this way was a privilege given to all Minnesota Cooperatives in 1987. Prior to that time, these monies were handed over to the state. We think this law change was a good one and are happy Red Lake Electric Cooperative can use this money to provide scholarships for our service area high school graduates.



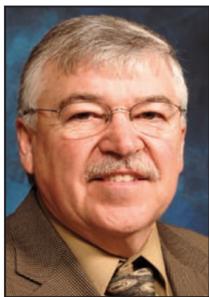
**STEPHEN WHALEN**  
Red Lake County Central  
Greg and Debbie Whalen  
Oklee



**BRITNEY FORSBERG**  
Goodridge High School  
Paul and Kristy Henrikson  
Goodridge  
Wade and Lori Forsberg  
Thief River Falls



**TESSA MCKEEVER**  
Badger/Greenbush/Middle River  
Ralph and Betsy McKeever  
Middle River



## Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanek

### Change

Change. It seems to be one of the things in life we count on: that things will change. It isn't too often we can read the daily newspaper or watch the nightly news and not hear a politician say, "It's time for a change." Same goes for climate change; we hear and read a lot about that in the news, too.

The recent news on climate change is that the U.S. has started debate on a bill to reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions; the culprit alarmists and some scientists say it is the cause for climate change or global warming. The original plan of this bill seeks a nearly 70 percent reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and a reduction to 1990 levels by 2020. This is an aggressive plan that, in its present form, would cost all of us plenty by placing a carbon tax on the use of fossil fuels like coal, petroleum and natural gas. The cost of this legislation, if it becomes law, would show (Olga Hanson 2118001.02) up directly in the bill you get from Red Lake Electric each month and in the cost of other fuels you use.

Today, 80 percent of the energy you get from Red Lake Electric Cooperative is produced from coal. The coal-fired power plants that generate this electricity from North Dakota's abundant coal resources have been a reliable source of energy for this region. These mouth, coal-fired power plants have not only been a reliable source of energy but just as importantly, they have been an economical source of energy to light and warm our homes and fuel our regional economy.

It is estimated that 96 percent to 97 percent of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted into the atmosphere is produced from nature itself and the remaining 3 percent to 4 percent is from factories, automobiles and power plants. When one considers the earth's history of warming and cooling, gla-

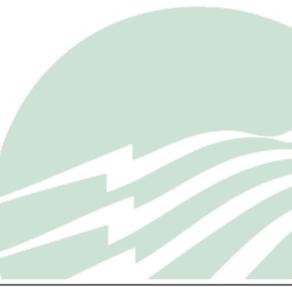
ciers expanding and receding to shape and create the mountains, lakes and landscape as we know it today, are we that out of place to reason that no matter how much we spend to curb the 3 percent to 4 percent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, we will do little to alter the earth's natural periods of warming and cooling?

Add to that the global use of fossil fuels that minimizes even more the impact legislation in the U.S. and would affect worldwide CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gas emissions. China alone plans 500 new coal-powered plants by 2015 and India is adding another 200 coal power plants over the next seven years.

As Natural Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) CEO Glen English said, "The effects of climate change legislation on the

**"The effects of climate change legislation on the environment will not be known for decades, yet the cost of dealing with it will show up right away on consumers' bills."**

— Glen English, CEO, NRECA



## Happy 4th of July

In observance of Independence Day, Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Friday, July 4. In case of an electrical emergency or outage, call the after-hour phone number 218-253-2200.

As you celebrate Independence Day, remember to play and celebrate safely and responsibly.



## Awareness of lightning dangers could prevent injury or death

In the U.S., lightning kills an average of 66 people per year and injures another 300, according to the National Weather Service. In an effort to decrease these numbers, Safe Electricity offers the following tips to stay safe during storms:

- If you're close enough to the storm to hear thunder, you are most likely close enough to be struck by lightning. Seek shelter immediately.
- Do not seek shelter under trees, picnic or rain shelters or in open-frame vehicles.
- Don't plug in or unplug anything electrical during a storm.
- Don't use corded

telephones; phone use is the number one cause of indoor lightning injuries in the U.S.

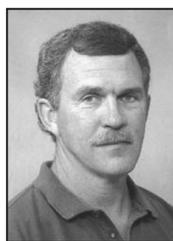
- Avoid contact with water pipes, washers or dryers.
- If you can't find shelter in a building or closed-frame vehicle, keep your feet together and sit on the ground away from water, high



ground or open spaces.

- If a person is struck by lightning call 911 and care for the victim immediately. You cannot be harmed by touching the victim after he or she has been struck.

Visit <http://www.SafeElectricity.org> for more information on electrical safety.



## Member Service Department

by Kevin Reich

### Energy Star rebates

Red Lake Electric Cooperative has offered rebates on certain Energy Star products since 2004. The rebates apply to heat pumps, air conditioners and household appliances. Listed are the products and the rebate amount for Energy Star models:

Ground source heat pump \$500, air source heat pump \$200, central air conditioner \$100, split-systems air conditioner \$100, room air conditioner \$50, refrigerator \$100, freezer \$100, clothes washer \$100, dishwasher \$50, dehumidifier \$25.

From time to time there is some confusion about Energy Star. Sometimes it is thought to be a (Larry W. Peterson 5316005.02) brand name, which it is not. Energy Star-rated means the product meets or exceeds the strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Another misunderstanding is associated with the "Energy Guide" that is affixed to or supplied with a new product. Sometimes it is thought that if there is an energy guide on the product it is Energy

Star and this is not always the case. Generally if a product is Energy Star-rated the Energy Star logo will appear on the energy guide.

If you are in question if a product is an Energy Star model, ask the retailer or contractor you are working with. Product models can also be checked on Energy Star's Web site: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

To claim a rebate, a rebate request form must be submitted to Red Lake Electric along with a copy of the receipt from the retailer

or contractor. Area dealers and contractors have copies of the rebate (Dennis Srnsky 4305001.03) request form. The form also appears on the Cooperative's Web site, [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com), or a copy can be mailed to you if you contact the Cooperative office.

Purchasing Energy Star products will generally cost more money at the time of purchase. But because of the efficiency of the product, it will cost less to operate, which makes "cents."

## 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

## 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

RONNIE M. KENNEDY  
General Manager

## RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc. VOLTS & JOLTS

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## NOTICE

Hidden within the text of the articles on pages 1, 2, 3 and the back page 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 (99-99-99-999-99 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.

### Energy tip of the month

A combination of proper insulation, energy-efficient windows and doors, shading and ventilation will help keep homes cool in the summer with a lower amount of energy use.



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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 \$15 to \$21 month  
First 500 KWH ..... 8.0¢ Kwh  
Over 500 KWH (April-Dec.) ..... 5.7¢ Kwh  
Over 500 KWH (Jan.-Mar.) ..... 6.5¢ Kwh  
Multiphase users add \$16/month cost of service charge.

Standby, \$8/month (meter disconnected but the power line retained; standby is not available on services larger than 15 KVA transformer capacity).

Security light, \$6/month, high pressure sodium, \$7/month, mercury vapor; water heater flat credit, \$5/month (on January-April billing); off-peak equipment charge, \$3.50/month per heat meter; off-peak electric heat rate, 3.5¢/kWh long-term control, 5.0¢/kWh short-term control.

# Recipe corner

## Cheesy Broccoli Pockets

1 10-oz. pkg. frozen chopped broccoli  
2 tsp. olive oil  
1 clove garlic, minced  
1 c. shredded mozzarella cheese  
1/3 c. grated Parmesan cheese  
2 jarred roasted red peppers, coarsely chopped  
1 tbl. chopped fresh oregano or 1 tsp. dried oregano  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. black pepper  
1 16-oz. pkg. frozen bread dough, thawed

Preheat oven to 375°. Grease two baking sheets. Cook broccoli according to package directions; drain well. In a medium skillet, heat oil over low heat. Add garlic; saute for 2 minutes. Add broccoli; cook, stirring until moisture has evaporated, about 3 minutes. Remove from heat; cool slightly. In a medium bowl, combine broccoli mixture, mozzarella, Parmesan, roasted peppers, oregano, salt and pepper; mix well. On a lightly floured surface, divide dough into 8 pieces; roll out each piece to form a 6-inch circle. Spoon an equal amount of broccoli mixture in the center of each circle. Fold dough over filling to form a half circle. Press edges with a fork to seal; prick a few holes in pocket tops. Place pockets on prepared baking sheets. Bake until golden, about 25 minutes. Serve immediately. Yield: 8 pockets.

## Raspberry Angel Food Cake

10 egg whites  
1 1/4 tsp. cream of tartar  
1 tsp. vanilla extract  
1/2 tsp. almond extract  
1/2 c. sugar  
1 c. cake flour  
2 c. fresh raspberries

In a mixing bowl, beat egg whites until frothy; beat in cream of tartar until soft peaks form. Add the extracts. Gradually beat in sugar until stiff, scraping bowl occasionally. Sift flour over beaten whites; sprinkle with berries. Gently fold flour and raspberries into batter until well mixed. Pour into an ungreased 10-inch tube pan. Bake at 325° for 40 to 45 minutes or until lightly browned and entire top appears dry. Immediately invert cake pan; cool completely, about 1 hour. Yield: 16 servings.

## Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

# Operating Report

### MONTHLY COMPARISON

	APRIL 2007	APRIL 2008
Total Revenue	\$ 721,565	\$ 778,685
Total Margins	\$ 10,863	\$ 5,604
Cost of Power	\$ 461,361	\$ 497,067
KWH's Purchased	11,559,776	11,946,700
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 25,537	\$ 18,633

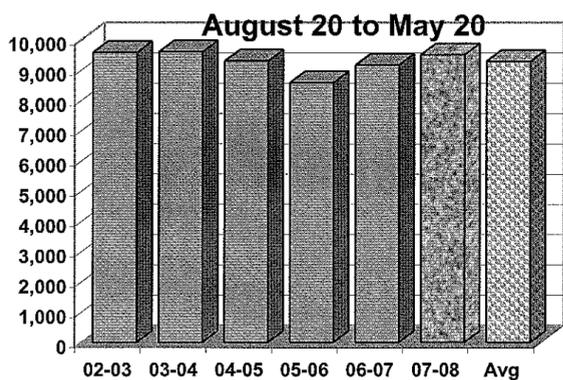
### YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

	APRIL 2007	APRIL 2008
Total Revenue	\$ 3,189,347	\$ 3,776,670
Total Margins	\$ 851,601	\$ 1,033,942
Cost of Power	\$ 1,911,307	\$ 2,221,718
KWH's Purchased	55,359,946	61,263,829
New Service Connections	4	3
Customers Served	5,059	5,093
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 37,943	\$ 24,879
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,329	2,323
Underground	230	231

# DEGREE DAYS

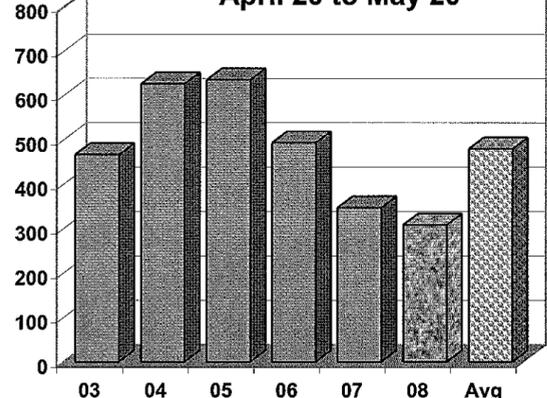
To determine degree days, you must calculate the daily mean temperature for the time period you are measuring. Degree day computation is based on the assumption that a building does not require any heat if the outside temperature averages 65 degrees during a 24-hour period. To obtain a degree day figure, 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.

## YEAR TO DATE DEGREE DAYS



## DEGREE DAYS

April 20 to May 20



## Chocolate Berry Shortcakes

2 c. baking mix  
2 tbl. unsweetened cocoa powder  
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg  
3/4 c. low-fat vanilla yogurt  
3 tbl. honey  
2 tbl. vegetable oil  
2 c. sliced strawberries  
1 tbl. sugar  
1 1/2 c. sweetened whipped cream or nondairy whipped topping  
Preheat oven to 425°. 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 shortcakes 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.

## Chicken Rice Salad

5 c. cubed cooked chicken  
3 c. cooked rice  
1 1/2 c. diced green pepper  
1 1/2 c. sliced celery  
1 20-oz. can pineapple tidbits, drained  
3/4 c. mayonnaise  
4 tsp. orange juice  
2 tsp. vinegar  
1 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. ground ginger  
1/4 tsp. garlic salt  
1 15-oz. can mandarin oranges, drained  
1 c. slivered almonds, toasted  
In a large bowl, combine the first five ingredients. In a small bowl, combine mayonnaise, orange juice, vinegar, salt, ginger and garlic salt. Pour over salad and toss. Refrigerate. Just before serving, fold in oranges and almonds. Yield: 12 servings.

## Ham and Vegetable Linguine

1 8-oz. pkg. linguine  
1/2 lb. fresh asparagus, cut into 1-inch pieces  
1/2 pound fresh mushrooms, sliced  
1 medium carrot, thinly sliced  
1 medium zucchini, diced  
2 c. julienned fully cooked ham  
1/4 c. butter or margarine  
1 c. whipping cream  
1/2 c. frozen peas  
3 green onions, sliced  
1/4 c. grated Parmesan cheese  
1 tsp. dried basil  
3/4 tsp. salt  
Dash each pepper and ground nutmeg  
Additional Parmesan cheese, optional  
Cook linguine according to package directions. Meanwhile, in a large skillet, saute asparagus, mushrooms, carrot, zucchini and ham in butter until the vegetables are tender. Add cream, peas, onions, Parmesan, basil, salt, pepper and nutmeg; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer for 3 minutes, stirring frequently. Rinse and drain linguine; add to vegetable mixture and toss to coat. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese if desired. Yield: 4 servings.

## Blueberry Streusel Cobbler

1 pint fresh or frozen blueberries  
1 14-oz. can sweetened condensed milk (not evaporated milk)  
2 tsp. grated lemon peel  
3/4 c. plus 2 tbl. cold butter or margarine  
2 c. biscuit baking mix, divided  
1/2 c. firmly packed brown sugar  
1/2 c. chopped nuts  
Vanilla ice cream  
Blueberry sauce  
Preheat oven to 325°. In a bowl, combine blueberries, sweetened condensed milk and peel. In a large bowl, cut 3/4 cup butter into 1 1/2 cups biscuit mix until crumbly; add blueberry mixture. Spread in greased 9-inch square baking pan. In a small bowl, combine remaining 1/4 cup biscuit mix and sugar; cut in remaining 2 tablespoons butter until crumbly. Add nuts; sprinkle over cobbler. Bake 1 hour and 10 minutes or until golden. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream and blueberry sauce. Refrigerate leftovers.

## Blueberry Sauce

In a large saucepan, combine 1/2 cup sugar, 1 tablespoon cornstarch, 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon and 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg. Gradually add 1/2 cup water. Cook and stir until thickened. Stir in 1 pint blueberries; cook and stir until hot.

## Yogurt Fruit Dip

1 16-oz. carton plain nonfat yogurt  
2 tbl. brown sugar  
1 tbl. orange juice concentrate  
Dash ground cinnamon  
Line a strainer with a paper coffee filter or cheesecloth; place over a bowl. Put yogurt in strainer; refrigerate for 8 hours. Discard liquid in bowl. Combine yogurt, brown sugar, orange juice concentrate and cinnamon; mix well. Serve with fresh fruit. Yield: 1 1/4 cups.

## Anytime Cucumber Slices

3 to 4 large cucumbers, sliced  
2 medium onions, thinly sliced  
3 tbl. minced fresh dill or 1 tbl. dill weed  
1 c. sugar  
1/2 c. vinegar  
1/2 c. water  
1 tsp. salt  
In a bowl, combine cucumbers, onions and dill. In a saucepan, combine sugar, vinegar, water and salt; bring to a boil. Pour over cucumber mixture. Cover and chill for 3 hours or overnight. Yield: 6 cups.

## Vegetation monitoring at Agassiz – putting latest technology to the test

Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge is made up of 61,500 acres of wetlands, shrublands, forestland, grassland, cropland and black spruce-tamarack bog. Its habitats are especially important for wildlife, such as migratory bird, moose, bear, wolves and deer, among a wide range of other critters big and small.

This vast expanse of land is primarily managed by means of water level manipulation, mowing, tree harvest and prescribed fire. Recently, refuge staff began to consider the use of infrared photography analysis as a potential means of measuring the success or failure of applied management practices.

Agassiz is managed to meet certain objectives, including the protection and production of migratory birds and other wildlife and the provision of large-scale biodiversity. In order to meet these objectives, the refuge needs to complete vegetative inventories throughout the refuge.

Refuge staff hope to determine the range of vegetative communities present on the refuge and quantify change of plant group coverage over time. The main vegetation species of interest are aspen, cattail, common reed, reed canary grass, bulrush, sedge and willow.

Due to the large size of the refuge and the fact some areas are inaccessible on foot, most vegetation ground monitoring techniques are not practical or cost effective. Therefore the refuge would like to determine whether or not infrared photography, Geographic Information System (GIS) and imagery software have the capabilities to quantify and accurately assess change of vegetation over time. This is increasingly important because the refuge has been negatively impacted by aggressive native species, as well as various non-native plant species.

Currently, the refuge is focusing part of its management efforts on controlling the spread of native

aspen because aspen is encroaching on the open landscape areas of the refuge and as a result is changing not only the historic composition of the land but altering bird community composition. With less grassland available for nesting and cover, certain grassland-dependent species are being forced to find new areas that offer the right conditions and environment.

An example of a non-native species the refuge is actively seeking to manage is narrow-leaved cattail. If left unmanaged, it has the ability to outcompete other vegetation and convert open water areas to a cattail-choked marsh. The repercussions of this will be felt greatly by the refuge's breeding over-water nesting birds, such as ducks, grebes, gulls, among others. Most waterbird species find a 50:50 mix of open water and emergent vegetation to be the most ideal wetland condition.

Each August the refuge is flown and photographed using infrared photography. With the advancement of technology and imagery the refuge is looking to apply the use of GIS along with imagery software to determine if it can be used as an efficient monitoring tool to inventory vegetation and assess vegetative change.

The imagery software used throughout this monitoring technique analyzes the image pixel by pixel. It then compares the pixels and determines how similar or dissimilar they are to one another. Based on the findings it groups similar pixels and the end result is an image broken down into different polygons.

Refuge staff is hopeful the accuracy of this software is at an acceptable level to allow for its long-term use in the refuge. If so the end result will mean improved evaluation of the various management activities, which will ultimately result in improved habitat management of a diverse and thriving wildlife community.

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**VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH**

**A family that farms together, stays together**

**By Destiny Harmoning**

Arlan and Gerda Koskela have been farming together as a family near Plummer for about 45 years.

Arlan grew up on the dairy farm owned by his parents, Bill and Florence Koskela, adjoining the land he now owns. At age 10, Arlan was busy helping his parents and their neighbors, Dick and Louise Dalziel, with farming.

When Dick needed someone to drive tractor or other things, Arlan would help out. Dick told Arlan, "Whenever you are ready to buy a farm, I'll sell you my farm." Arlan said he wasn't interested in becoming a farmer. Years later, things changed and Arlan did buy their farm from them in 1963, along with his wife, Gerda. They have been dairy farming ever since.

Arlan and Gerda met at a dance in Oklee. They were married at Salem Lutheran Church in Oklee July 30, 1960. For a few years, they lived in an 8-foot by 35-foot trailer on Arlan's parents' land.

Arlan attended and graduated from school in Plummer. "It took me 32 years to get out of the Plummer school," Arlan said. He explained he attended classes there for 12 years, then he worked for a construction company that did work on the school's gymnasium for a year and finally he spent about 20 years as custodian and bus driver there.

Gerda grew up on a farm near Oklee with her parents, Ole and Katherine Kvasager. She helped with their dairy farming as well. She graduated from Oklee High School.

After graduation, Gerda took teacher's training, which was a nine-month program. Following completion of the training, Gerda was able to teach



Arlan, Gerda and Dean Koskela



The Koskelas have a small herd of 21 dairy cattle with four heifers.

country school or ungraded elementary schools. She taught in Holt for two years and in a country school by Oklee for one year before meeting and farming with Arlan.

The Koskelas have three children. "I think they all enjoyed growing up in a smaller town area," Gerda said of their children. Their oldest, Dean, 46, lives on the land where Arlan grew up. Since the land is nearby, the family

and Technical College in Thief River Falls. Dean stopped attending college in 1983 to farm with his parents.

Arlan and Gerda have a small herd of 21 dairy cows and four heifers. They are currently selling down and switching to beef. Arlan explained he has been dairy farming for too long and, frankly, he's getting too old for it. "But without Dean, we wouldn't have been able to keep on this long even," Gerda said. Dean has 19 black Angus cattle on his land.

Besides cattle, the Koskelas raise all their own feed. Between Arlan's and Dean's farms, they have a combined 560 acres of land with 275 acres of hay, 135 acres of small grain and 84 acres of pasture.

The greatest challenge of farming, according to Arlan, is, "Being tied down." However, farming is not without its rewards. Arlan's number one? "Being your own boss," he said.

"Accomplishments that a person makes," Gerda added.

When asked why they decided to dairy farm, Arlan said it has kept food on the table. "It was a way to make a living," Gerda said. "Actually, it's been pretty good to us."

Arlan added, "When times were tough ... that milk check was pretty nice to have."

"Right now, it's a good way to make a living because the milk prices are so much better than they used to be," Gerda said of dairy farming.

For Arlan, a typical day starts by waking up at 5:30 a.m. to milk cows. He then heads into town to have coffee at the Plummer Creamery. The



Milk produced on the Koskela farm is sold to Land O'Lakes through the Plummer Creamery.

continues to farm together, combining their 280 acres each and sharing duties.

Daughters Debbie and Dixie live in the Fargo/Moorhead area. Debbie is married to Carmen Walter and they have twin boys, Matthew and Nathan, 8. They live in Moorhead. Debbie taught school for 14 years but has been a stay-at-home mother until recently when she started doing substitute teaching. Dixie is married to Brad Bosch and they have sons Conner, 7, and Regan, 4. Regan's middle name is Arlan, after his grandfather. They live in Fargo and Dixie works as an adjudicator for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of North Dakota.

As far as college goes, Debbie and Dixie received four-year degrees from Minnesota State University, Moorhead. Dean also attended college there for half of a year, following his achievement of an associate of arts degree from Northland Community



Inside the milk room in the Koskelas' barn sits the bulk tank, where the milk is cooled and stored after being harvested from the cows.

Koskelas sell their milk to Land O'Lakes through the Plummer Creamery. It gets bottled by Dean's Foods in Thief River Falls.

"I never thought that I'd see the day that the semi pulls up in the yard to pick up the milk. Now that's what they do," Arlan said. He recalls that when they first started farming, the milk was put into 10-gallon cans and then hauled to the creamery.

When not busy on the farm, Arlan likes to deer hunt and go fishing on the Clearwater River, which is right on his land. Dean enjoys gardening, yardwork and watching movies. In her free time, Gerda takes pleasure in reading and baking.

The family is also very involved in their church. They are members of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Plummer. This is where Gerda belongs to the WELCA group and Dean attends Bible study, is a volunteer usher and was previously on the council as vice president for two years. He also volunteers for the Rural One-Fund Drive.

The Koskela family shares a passion for farming that brings them together in ways nothing else could; their bond doesn't seem to be breaking anytime soon.

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# From the mailbag

## DEAR RLEC:

Thank you for the scholarship. I plan to attend North Dakota State University for architecture.

**Taylor Terpstra,  
Crookston**

## DEAR RLEC:

Thank you so much for the scholarship. It will come in handy when I start school at the University of North Dakota next fall.

Thanks again,  
**Joe Brinkman,  
Gully**

## DEAR RLEC:

Thank you for the scholarship of \$600. It is greatly appreciated. I plan on attending North Dakota State University in the fall.

Thank you,  
**Erica Wayne,  
Thief River Falls**

## DEAR RLEC:

Thanks so much for choosing Tessa to receive this "nice" scholarship. It will help much in her chosen field of nursing; she will attend Northland Community and Technical College, Thief River Falls, with honors.

**Betsy McKeever,  
Middle River**

## DEAR RLEC:

We would like to thank Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. for supporting the students of Northland Community and Technical College by donating \$1,577 to the Northland Community and Technical College Foundation. We are very grateful and look forward to awarding this contribution, in the form of scholarships, to students attending our aviation campus during spring semester 2009.

Thank you for making a commitment to support our area students through your continued financial gifts. These gifts enable our area students to pursue their educational goals and ensure Northland Community and Technical College continues to provide an exceptional educational experience. Your donations fund scholarships that truly make a difference in the lives of our students.

Again, we thank Red Lake Electric Cooperative for your continued generosity and support.

Sincerely,  
**Michelle Benitt, director of  
annual giving and  
alumni relations**

## DEAR RLEC:

Thank you so much for the donation of \$100 you have given to the 4-H Youth Development Program in Red Lake County. This means so much to the 4-H members. It is a great incentive for them

to work hard on their fair exhibits. They do a wonderful job.

Thanks again for your donation.

Sincerely,  
**Sharon Weiss, 4-H Program  
coordinator, Red Lake Co.**

## DEAR RLE TRUST:

Thank you for your help with a donation from Operation Round Up.

**Oklee Fireman,  
Oklee**

## DEAR RLE TRUST:

On behalf of the Midwest Division staff and volunteers of the American Cancer Society, I graciously thank you for your continued contributions. We truly appreciate your most recent gift of \$500 through Relay For Life.

Thanks to continuing support from caring donors like you, we are working to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

Sincerely,  
**Douglas Reding, MD,  
MPH, FACP,  
chair of the board**

## DEAR RLE TRUST:

Thank you for your recent gift of \$300 to Marshall County Early Childhood Initiative Fund. The Marshall County Early Childhood Initiative Fund is an important part of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation's mission to make our region a better place to live and work.

Your contribution to the fund supports the Marshall County Early Childhood Initiative activities benefiting early care and education.

Again, thank you for supporting the mission of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation and the Marshall County Early Childhood Initiative Fund.

Sincerely,  
**Ritchie Houge, vice president,  
philanthropic services, NMF**

## DEAR RLE TRUST:

On behalf of the Sunview Center residents, I would like to thank the board of directors of the Red Lake Electric Trust for granting us \$250 in Operation Round Up dollars to help us meet our goal of acquiring funds to purchase an LCD flat-screen TV for the Sunview community room.

I am very happy to report, with your help, we have achieved our goal and will purchase the TV this week. Many residents, patrons and citizens of our community came together to help us in this effort.

We truly appreciate your consideration and generosity.

Sincerely,  
**Mary Ann Benoit,  
HRA director**

## DEAR RLE TRUST:

Thank you very much for donating \$250 to the Happy Acres 4-H Club; it is much appreciated. The money will be used to buy polar fleece to make blankets for Project Linus. These blankets will be donated to the Project Linus chapter in Blackduck. From there they will be distributed to hospitals in northwestern Minnesota.

**Gianna Anderson,  
Happy Acres 4-H reporter**

## DEAR RLE TRUST:

Thank you for continuing to so generously support the Relay For Life in Red Lake County. Our 10th event proved to be an other big success, raising more than \$76,000 to date.

We appreciate your help very much in the battle against cancer that one day will be won.

Sincerely,  
**Barb Melby, corporate  
sponsorship chair,  
Relay For Life Committee**

## Top dairy herds for March DHIA

Randy and Margaret Rasmussen, supervisors of the Red Lake-Pennington

DHIA, put the following herds at top 10 in the association for May.

Name	Cows	% in milk	lbs. milk	test	lbs. fat	protein	protein
NW Research & Outreach Center	117	90	74	3.6	2.7	3.1	2.3
Walter Bros. Farm	302	87	71	3.4	2.4	3.0	2.1
Robert and Terry Dahlen	56	88	67	3.4	2.3	2.9	1.9
Beyer Brothers Farm	73	84	66	3.7	2.4	3.0	2.0
Spring Prairie Colony	345	90	65	3.9	2.5	3.0	1.9
Northstar Dairy, 3X	850	87	64	3.6	2.3	3.1	2.0
Wayra Dairy, 3X	219	84	64	3.5	2.3	2.9	1.9
Mark Gladen	83	95	64	2.9	1.9	2.9	1.9
Amundson Dairy	67	87	63	3.6	2.3	3.0	1.9
E. Duane, Faith Knott	83	89	61	3.4	2.1	3.0	1.8

The herd averages are affected by the number of dry cows in the herd. The amount of milk or butterfat is averaged out over all the cows. This gives the farmer a record of the earning power of the herd for the month. If too many cows are included in the herd, then the average for the month may be low, even though the cow that is milking produces a lot of milk.

# Saving energy dollars (as well as souls) in church

Since most houses of worship rely on small or nonexistent budgets for capital projects, low- or no-cost measures that reduce energy consumption generally produce the best results.

Some simple steps involve changing the way congregants and staff use the building. Big ticket items, such as replacing heating and cooling systems with more energy-efficient units, may not be practical until existing equipment reaches the end of its useful life.

A comprehensive energy audit remains the best way to identify cost-effective efficiency improvements in a church. Below are some suggestions for reducing energy consumption:

- Turn off the lights when not in use. While occupancy sensors can be cost-effective, posting reminders to ensure the lights are turned off often does the trick. Timers are useful in lobbies, entries and vestibules to ensure lights stay off during daylight hours.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent light-bulbs.
- Control "plug loads" such as microwaves, computers and televisions that continue to draw power even when turned off. Unplug these appliances when finished using or before leaving the building.
- Heat and cool during occupied hours only. Make sure heating and cooling controls are set at minimum levels or are switched off during periods of no use.
- Turn down water heater thermostats. Bathrooms and kitchens used primarily during worship services are good targets for lowering water temperatures.
- Change filters. Filters should be changed on a monthly basis, more often if the congregation is located next to a highway or a construction site.
- Clean condenser coils. Con-



denser coils should be washed thoroughly at the beginning and the end of the cooling season.

• Check cabinet panels. Ensure panels to rooftop air conditioning units are attached with all screws in place, and make sure gaskets are intact to prevent air leaks. This check should be performed on a quarterly basis.

• Direct airflow. Close registers in any unused rooms to direct air where it is needed. If some rooms overheat while others are too cool, call a qualified heating and cooling contractor.

• Close vents. In place of air conditioning, many older buildings have natural ventilation systems to remove hot air in the summer. Be sure to close these vents in the winter.

• Seal gaps. Use caulk and weatherstripping to seal gaps around windows, doors, chimneys and other structural elements, including the foundation.

• Insulate hot water pipes with pipe insulation. Fix leaky faucets, showerheads, pipes and toilets.

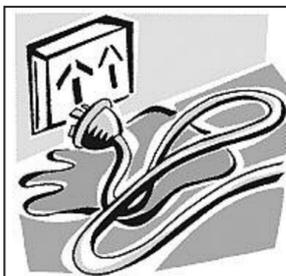
— E Source, Energy Star, U.S. Department of Energy

## How to avoid electrical hazards around water

• Keep outlets near hot tubs, spas and pools covered and dry between uses. New outlet covers are available that offer weather protection while a plug is inserted into the outlet.

• Keep cords and plugs away from hot tubs, spas, pools and puddles from wet bathers. Never handle electrical items, plugs or outlets when wet. If an electrical product falls into water, do not reach into the water for it. Make sure you are dry and not in contact with water or metal surfaces and unplug it immediately or shut off the circuit powering the item.

• Outlets on or near hot tubs, spas and pools should be protected by a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). Many older swimming pools that predate the introduction of GFCIs in the 1970s should be upgraded to add GFCI protection for branch circuits supplying power to underwater pool lights operating above 15 volts and outlets within 20



feet of the pool.

Note, however, that when a person gets immersed in an isolated body of water, like a hot tub, the water could become electrified without involving a ground fault as the electric current passes through water (and perhaps a person) from an electrical pole to the opposite pole. In this case, the GFCI may not provide shock or electrocution protection.

## 4 gardens are on June 26 tour

The 2008 garden tour sponsored by the Pennington County Master Gardeners is set for Thursday, June 26, from 4 to 9 p.m.

Gardens to tour are those of Pam McMahon, Yvonne Pederson and Coach Peters, Betty Kezar and Don and Diane Aandal.

Early summer plantings will be featured again this year.

For information on tickets, directions or other information call the Pennington County Extension office at 218-683-7030.

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2007 Arctic 400 4x4 Auto (Warr)	\$4,799
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# Pole-top fires not uncommon

A few times each year, fires will occur on the tops of poles throughout Red Lake Electric Cooperative's service area. These fires can be caused by either lightning strikes or faulty insulators that cause arcing.



June 15 the top of this three-phase pole caught on fire. It is located east of Brooks, along Highway 92. Thanks to a tip by a passing motorist, temporary repairs were made to prevent electrical interruption.



With the line de-energized, Troy Schmitz, lineman, uses a shotgun stick to attach grounds on all the wires on the three-phase pole before the pole is changed out. The grounds are used as a safety precaution in case of any backfeed on the lines.



Wires are lifted and held out of the way with the jib at the end of the boom of the bucket truck while a new three-phase pole is set by a line construction crew. In addition to Troy Schmitz, crew members are Dick Gervais, crew foreman; Ira Cota, lineman; and Brett Knott, apprentice lineman.



Troy Schmitz works to tie the wires onto the insulators of the newly set pole.



Once the work is complete, Troy Schmitz removes the grounds from the wires so the line can be re-energized. The change-out of the pole resulted in about a one-hour electrical interruption for RLEC members in the Brooks/Oklee area.



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## Child car safety tips, advice for parents

The widespread use of children's car seats has reduced the number of injuries and fatalities on American roads but experts agree more needs to be done.

"Every state requires children under the age of 4 are secured while riding in a car," noted Ray Palermo, director of public information for Teachers' Insurance Plan™. "Yet despite the laws and warnings, car crashes are still the single largest cause of death among children under the age of fourteen." It is estimated half of the approximately 1,500 fatalities each year could be prevented with the proper use of a child car seat.

Although state laws vary and parents should check to ensure they are complying with all local regulations, the insurer offered some general guidelines for parents to follow.

- Start out right. The best way to get children in the habit of using safety restraints is to learn from

their parent's example. The driver, all adult passengers and all infants and children should be safely secured before starting the engine.

- Infants up to 20 pounds: Infants from birth to 1 year old and under 20 pounds in weight should be secured in an infant car safety seat on the back seat of the vehicle, facing the rear. This avoids injury from an inflated airbag and will be less of a distraction for the driver. If a vehicle does not have a back seat, deactivate the airbag for that trip but be sure to reactivate it when an adult is the passenger.

- Infants 20+ pounds: Infants from birth to 1 year and more than 20 pounds should be either secured in a convertible safety seat or in an infant seat approved for their weight. The seats should be secured on the back seat of the vehicle, facing the rear.

- Children 20 to 40 pounds: Children older than 1 year who weigh 20 to 40 pounds should be

secured in a child safety seat on the back seat of the vehicle, facing forward.

- Children 40+ pounds: Children who have outgrown their child safety seat but are still too small (less than 4'9") to use the standard adult safety belt in the car, should use a booster seat. The lap belt should sit across the hips and the shoulder belt should not cross the neck or face.

Teachers' Insurance Plan also offered these cautions: Be sure to read the manufacturer's instructions on proper installation or check with local police or fire department, who are often certified to inspect car seats. When buying a car seat, look for the DOT tag. Do not use a car seat that is broken or missing parts.

For more information go to the Safety Information Center at [www.teachers.com/safety](http://www.teachers.com/safety).

## DNR's Lake Finder updated with data encouraging more fish consumption

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Lake Finder, the Web site that provides information about specific lakes, now includes newly revised fish consumption data that encourages people to eat more fish.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) revised its fish consumption advisory to include a large new body of data on contaminants in fish from Minnesota lakes and rivers. The advisory also is in a new format designed to make it easier to understand.

Previous guides indicated consumers should eat fish that had a once-per-week recommendation or a meal of fish from the once-per-month category but not both. Now MDH is advising consumers they

may eat fish from the once-per-week category and the once-per-month category.

"Additional data and a thorough analysis show this slight change will still be safe for people eating fish," said Pat McCann, an MDH environmental health researcher and coordinator of the fish consumption advisory.

"The health benefits of eating more fish are clear," said Ron Payer, DNR fisheries section chief. "Those health aspects combined with the many opportunities Minnesota offers to get outdoors, have fun and discover the joys of fishing create ideal opportunities to catch quality time with family and friends."

Health experts, including MDH,

recommend eating one to two meals of fish per week. Fish are a good low-fat source of protein and eating fish may help protect adults against cardiovascular disease. Pregnant women and women who may become pregnant should also eat fish because it promotes eye and brain development in fetuses.

For more than 20 years, the fish consumption advisory has helped Minnesotans choose which species of fish to eat and how often in order to minimize their risks from contaminants in fish while gaining the many health benefits from eating fish.

This year's edition of the advisory includes a substantial amount of new data collected from numerous species of fish from more than 250 lakes and rivers. The advice for specific lakes and rivers in the advisory has been redesigned to include information on three contaminants instead of the previous two. Perfluorooctane sulfonate joins mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) as one of the contaminants that can affect how much fish people should eat. The tables also include changes in how meal advice is displayed.

"The changes to this year's guide represent the biggest change in the advisory format since it was first published in 1985, and reflect a great amount of cooperative work between MDH, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the DNR and the Department of Agriculture (MDA)," Magnan said.

For this advisory, MDH staff analyzed and interpreted laboratory results from approximately 4,500 samples of fish tissue, more than twice the usual amount. The data came from field collections in 2006 and 2007 by the DNR and the subsequent analysis of PCBs and mercury in fish tissue by the MDA. The increased collections and analysis were made possible in part by funding from the Clean Water Legacy Act of 2006.

The fish advisory is available online from the DNR Web site at [mndnr.gov/lakefind](http://mndnr.gov/lakefind) and from MDH at [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/fish/eating/sitespecific.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/fish/eating/sitespecific.html). Additional information about the MDH fish consumption advisory is available at [www.health.state.mn.us/news/pressrel/fish060308.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/news/pressrel/fish060308.html).

## Helpful hints to keep your back healthy while gardening

As spring and summer approach, it's easy to spot people uncomfortably hunched over in their gardens. But how easy is it to find a gardener who is kneeling on knee pads pulling weeds or doing gardening warm-ups in their front yard?

According to the National Gardening Association, about 40 million U.S. households have a garden. A hobby for many people, gardening can also be an intense exercise routine, using all the major muscle groups in the human body. Legs, buttocks, stomach, arms, shoulders, neck and back all get a workout. And like any exercise, gardening requires stretching as a warm-up and the use of proper form while shoveling, raking, digging, lifting or pulling weeds.

Barry Taylor, DC, an assistant professor at Northwestern Health

Sciences University in Bloomington, has suggestions for getting the most out of a gardening exercise experience:

- When buying and preparing soil, choose smaller, lighter bags and lift with bent knees and a straight back. Use a rear-tine tiller on the soil to take the strain off back muscles or have someone till for you if you are not normally physically active.

- Do not stay in a bent-over position too long. Stand up, stretch and walk around every 10 minutes.

- Kneel down instead of bending over for prolonged periods and use knee pads to protect knees.

- Use a lightweight, long-handled shovel or spade to reduce back strain.

- As with all exercise, drink plenty of water to prevent dehydra-

tion.

According to Dr. Taylor, "As we age, we naturally try to conserve energy and do not want to use our muscles. But if the muscles are not used they become weak and are more prone to be strained." Gardeners in the Midwest especially tend to rush too quickly into gardening after a long winter, which leads to aching muscles or injuries.

Exercise needs to be a year-round, regular activity that always includes plenty of stretching. Dr. Taylor strongly urges people to take a proactive approach and exercise more often. "Gardening properly and safely will help muscles grow stronger," he said. "Not only will your muscles gain strength, you will burn calories as well, up to 300 calories per hour of gardening."

## Keep birds healthy, clean feeders regularly

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is encouraging people with bird feeders to take several steps this summer to keep birds healthy.

"Moldy birdseed and unclean bird feeders can cause birds to become sick," said Carol Henderson, DNR nongame wildlife program supervisor. "In hot or humid weather, it is common for mold to form on wet birdseed. Mold can cause a fatal avian disease called aspergillosis, which affects the birds respiratory systems."

Henderson said people should also rake or sweep up fallen seeds and seed hulls under feeders to prevent mold from occurring on the ground. He offered the following additional tips to minimize the threat of disease:

- To clean a bird feeder, use a solution of 2 ounces of bleach with 1 gallon of water and scrub the entire surface.

- Allow the cleaned feeder to dry out in the sun; sunlight will help kill bacteria on the feeder.

- Hummingbird feeders should be cleaned about every week to 10 days during the summer.

- Keep the feed dry by using a hopper-type or a fly-through feeder and always scrape out old seed that has accumulated.

More information on attracting and feeding birds is available in "Wild about Birds: The DNR Bird Feeding Guide" and in "Landscaping for Wildlife." Both books are for sale at Minnesota's Bookstore at [www.minnesotasbookstore.com](http://www.minnesotasbookstore.com) or

toll free 800-657-3757. The production of these books was made possible by donations to the Nongame Wildlife Fund on state income and property tax forms.



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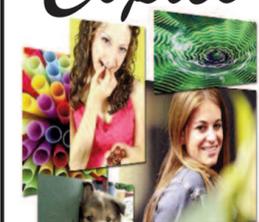
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**Continue to pay your monthly bill until you are notified on your bill that the Auto Pay has been set up for you.**

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

## AUTO PAY SIGN-UP SHEET

I authorize Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) and the bank listed below to initiate variable entries to my checking or savings account. This authorization remains in effect until I notify RLEC in writing to cancel it in such time as to allow RLEC to act on it.

RLEC ELECTRIC ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION \_\_\_\_\_

CHECKING ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_

SAVINGS ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_

SIGN HERE TO AUTHORIZE \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this authorization form with a blank, voided check to:  
Red Lake Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750





### Thronson attains journeyman

Casey Thronson, right, is congratulated by Bob Guillemette, manager of electric operations, for attaining the status of journeyman lineman. For the past four years, Thronson has been enrolled in the Merchant job training and safety apprentice program, studying and working towards his journeyman status. He is a graduate of the electrical lineworker training program at Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Wadena. Thronson is originally from Mahanomen, a graduate of Mahanomen High School. He and his wife, Cassie, live in rural Red Lake Falls and are expecting their first child in July.

## Hunting and fishing opportunities proposed for National Wildlife Refuges

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently opened a 30-day public comment period on a proposal to add one national wildlife refuge to the list of areas open for hunting during the 2008-09 season and increase hunting opportunities at six other refuges.

Initially proposed in July 2006, the hunt program changes were withdrawn because of a lawsuit and subsequent court decision requiring some refuges to revise environmental assessments to incorporate cumulative impact analyses. Refuges named in the lawsuit have completed the revised assessments as have the seven refuges included in the recent proposed rule.

The proposed rule, published in the June 11 *Federal Register*, would open Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge in Minnesota to migratory bird and big-game hunting. In addition, the rule increases hunting opportunities to include migratory birds and upland game at Agassiz and Blackwater refuges in Minnesota and Maryland, respectively.

Other changes at out-of-state refuges have also been proposed.

Some of the nation's finest hunting can be found on national wildlife refuges, as well as excellent opportunities for fishing, wildlife photography, wildlife

observation, environmental education and interpretive programs. More than 300 national wildlife refuges currently have hunting programs and more than 270 refuges having fishing programs.

To view the final rule visit <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E812188.pdf>.

To view the proposed rule visit <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E812193.pdf>.

## Midwest ISO issues 2008 summer assessment

The Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc. (Midwest ISO) declared the region will have sufficient generation capacity to meet the expected summer peak power demand.

The summer evaluation is an annual review that examines the expected use of power compared with the amount of generation available to meet the needs within the Midwest ISO footprint.

The final evaluation for the summer of 2008 estimates a peak net demand of 100,009 megawatts (MW) within the footprint of the Midwest Energy Markets, about 3 percent below last summer's 103,891 MW peak set in the Midwest ISO Market footprint Aug. 8, 2007. The forecast peak demand for 2008 is significantly below the adjusted record peak of 109,157

MW set during the summer of 2006.

Within the larger Midwest ISO reliability footprint, which includes companies that do not participate in the Midwest Energy Market but for which the Midwest ISO serves as reliability coordinator, the coincident net peak demand is forecasted to reach 119,428 MW, a decrease of about 2 percent from last summer's peak of 122,405 MW.

"We experienced a net increase in generation resources over the past year as well as slower growth in demand due to the economy," said Clair Moeller, Midwest ISO vice president of transmission asset management. "As a result, we are confident that our region will have the electricity it needs to meet this summer's peak demand."

— Great River News



### Derosier working as seasonal construction worker

Aaron Derosier, Red Lake Falls, will work throughout the construction season at Red Lake Electric Cooperative as a seasonal construction worker. He is a recent graduate of the electrical lineworker training program at Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Wadena. The Lafayette High School graduate is the son of Randy and Sandy Derosier of Red Lake Falls.

## ASHS Midsommar Fest is June 25 in Lancaster

The Agassiz Swedish Heritage Society (ASHS) will hold its annual Midsommar Festival Wednesday, June 25, in the Lancaster City Park.

Activities begin with coffee and refreshments at 2 p.m., followed by decorating a maypole about 2:30 p.m. Event organizer is president Lyndon Johnson of Hallock who requests members bring wildflowers and green, leafy branches to decorate.

Highlight of the event is raising the maypole, followed by ring dancing to music by Stanley Vis-

ness of Karlstad, who plays guitar, and his daughter, who plays violin.

The organization's annual smorgasbord will be held at Sion Lutheran Church, Lancaster, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Authentic Swedish dishes will be included.

In Sweden, midsommar marks the longest day of the year and the first day of summer. Summer in Sweden is short, nights are scarcely dark and in the north the sun never sets. Midsommar is an occasion for large gatherings and celebrations.

# Red Lake County Fair

Thursday, Friday and Saturday  
June 26 - 28

### Thursday, June 26

#### Judging Day

8:30 a.m. Opening Ceremony and Flag-raising (in front of the school)  
9:00 a.m. 4-H and open class exhibits can be entered at the Oklee High School.  
11:30 a.m. Red Hat Society luncheon.  
12 Noon 4-H Horse Show. Horses must be in place by 10:30 a.m.  
5:00 p.m. Pictures and radio interviews for 4-H Grand and Reserve Ribbon winners.

All commercial booths on display. For a commercial booth contact Shirley Bregier, 465-4359.  
6:00 p.m. 4-H Share The Fun contest at the Oklee Hall.  
7 - 10 p.m. Third Annual RLC Variety Show including Cathy Erickson Band, Woodpicks and Stew Clayton, Champion Yodeler. Music, laughter, dancing and door prizes. Free will offering - Oklee School Gym. Commercial Booths closed.

### Friday, June 27

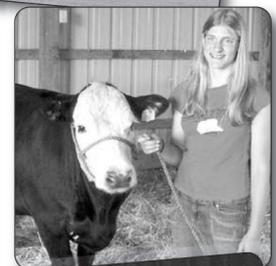
#### Senior Day

10:00 a.m. 4-H demonstrations in the Oklee School Gymnasium.  
10:30 a.m. Exhibits and commercial booths open for display.  
1:00 p.m. Senior citizen program - Oklee Community Hall. Presentation of Outstanding Senior Citizen Award, lunch and door prizes.  
2:00 p.m. Scavenger hunt - in front of the Oklee School.  
3:00 p.m. Music by Vernon Rogalla.  
6:30 p.m. 4-H awards, style revue, Farm family and Century Farm recognition - Oklee Community Center.  
7:30 p.m. Amateur talent show - Oklee School Gym. \$4 per person / \$12 per family maximum. Prizes: adults, \$100, \$75, \$50; youth, \$75, \$50, \$25. To register contact DeeAnn Leines at 218-253-4484 evenings.

### Saturday, June 28

10:00 a.m. Open class horse show. Any horse from neighboring counties can be entered in any applicable Open Class horse division. Entry fees required.  
10 a.m. Key hunt begins (10 keys worth \$5 each)  
10:00 a.m. Pedal Tractor Pull (ages 4-11)  
10:30 a.m. Exhibits and commercial booths open for display.  
1:00 p.m. Dress your pet contest - in front of Oklee School. \$25 first place.  
2:00 p.m. Horseshoe tournament. Contact Mike Dessellier, 218-796-5414.  
4:00 p.m. Potato peeling contest. Top prize \$40 adults, 18 and under, \$25  
6:00 p.m. Flag lowering.  
6:00 p.m. ATV Pull  
6:30 p.m. Release of all exhibits and commercial booths including livestock.

## CHECK OUT THE PETTING ZOO!



**VISIT THE  
4-H FOOD  
STAND!**



# ATV PULL 2008

Saturday, June 28

North side of Oklee

Registration 3:00-5:45 p.m. • Event begins: 6:00 p.m.



Steve's Auto Parts  
Thiberts Chev-Buick  
Mickelson Auctioneers  
Red Lake County Coop  
Titan Machinery

Oklee Lumber  
Joe's Auto  
TR Salvage  
Trails End  
Red Lake Electric Cooperative

### SPONSORS

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Grove Motor Sports

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Red Lake County Ins.  
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Chad's Landscaping & Lawn Care

Nelson Equipment  
Bagley Motor Sports

## World Wide Web

Visit Red Lake Electric Cooperative's Web Site at [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com)



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

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