



Manager Memos -by Curtis Kayton

Did you know:

October is Public Power month?

Yes, October is recognized as Public Power Month in the United States! Rural Electricity was spurred into motion by Nebraska's own U.S. Senator George Norris when he co-sponsored the Rural Electrification Act of 1935. Did you also know that Nebraska is the only Public Power state in the country? Shortly after the REA act was authorized, Nebraska chartered itself as a Public Power state. Today Nebraska has 167 Public Power and Cooperative utilities that provide locally controlled, reliable and affordable electricity. Our governing boards are elected by you the ratepayer. The rates you pay are determined locally, not by someone in Chicago, or California. Nebraska's Public Power Utilities support local economic development by focusing on providing the highest possible reliability, at the lowest reasonable cost.

Excess margins can be retained and invested in upgrades to keep it reliable or used to dampen the effects of wholesale power increases. You also can come to our office, and talk to people you know about your bill, or planning for a new service and of course we appreciate you calling us to report lines down in storms or pull us out when we're stuck. It's not just this way in Bayard, but across the state.

When you really think about Nebraska's Electric infrastructure being owned by you the ratepayer one can really claim ownership of Nebraska's greatest asset! Nebraska's agriculture industry, manufacturing, businesses, and our communities all benefit from being owned and operated locally, rather than for investors on wall street.

So, whether you realize it or not you own a piece of something that has grown our great state for the benefit of you the ratepayer for going on 90 years!

We would also be remiss if we didn't remind everyone to be watchful for farm equipment and harvest activities so everyone can have a safe harvest season.

Energy Efficiency Credits

Energy Efficiency Credits are available on electric motors, electric heating, electric hot water heaters, and LED lights. Must be new installations only, and submitted within 90 days.

Certain standards of efficiency must be met to qualify depending on the type of electric equipment installed.

Some of the credits include:

- *Electric water heaters - new construction or conversion from gas to electric
- *Heat pumps-\$150-\$500/ton
15 SEER Minimum
- *Electric motors 10-500 hp \$8/hp
- *Old refrig and freezer going to be recycled
- *Clothes Dryers - \$30-\$90
- *Induction Cooktops 30" or larger, must be replacing gas
- *LED lights - lesser of 1/2 cost of lights or \$8 per lamp, 500 Lumens or greater
- *Electric trimmer, chainsaw, or pruner, electric blower or lawn-mower - 25% of cost, up to \$150
- *Whole House Fans - \$100
- *Smart Thermostats - \$25

Receipts are required.

Please contact our office for information on requirements and credit amounts at 586-1824.

Let us help pay for your new electric appliances and motors.

Go Above and Beyond for a Safe Harvest

Massive machinery is indispensable to farming, but the same impressive size, height and extensions make them particularly vulnerable to contacting power lines. That's why staying alert, focused and knowledgeable about potential hazards and safety procedures is crucial.

During a busy harvest season, the familiar sights around the farm can easily fade into the background, and farm workers can overlook the power lines overhead. However, failing to notice them can lead to deadly accidents.

360 Awareness

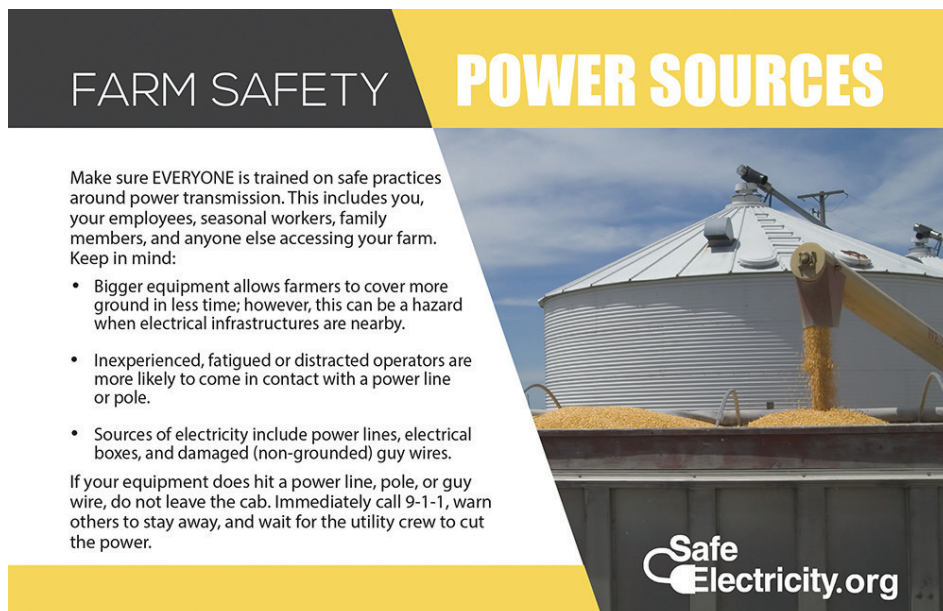
Awareness of your surroundings, around, above and below, and planning safe equipment routes can significantly reduce the risk of accidents. Even with GPS and auto-steering, it's imperative that farm workers keep a close eye on the equipment's location and are ready to take action if necessary.

Exposed underground powerlines, defective wiring in farm buildings and extension cords are also hazards. Grain bins can pose a potential danger as well. The National Electrical Safety Code requires power lines to be at least 18 feet above the highest point on any grain bin with which portable augers or other portable filling equipment are used. If you plan to install new grain bins or you're concerned about the proximity of power lines to existing grain bins, contact our office.

Smart Harvest Safety Tips

To ensure a safer harvest season here are some tips to avoid electrical accidents on the farm:

- Exercise caution near power lines. Be careful when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Use spotters when operating large machinery near power lines. Ensure the spotters do not touch the machinery while it is moving near power lines.
- Lower equipment extensions, portable augers or elevators before moving or transporting equipment. Do not raise equipment, such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember that non-metallic materials like lumber, tree limbs, ropes and hay can conduct electricity, especially when damp, dusty or dirty.
- Never attempt to raise or move power lines to clear a path. Doing so could result in electric shock or death.



FARM SAFETY **POWER SOURCES**

Make sure EVERYONE is trained on safe practices around power transmission. This includes you, your employees, seasonal workers, family members, and anyone else accessing your farm. Keep in mind:

- Bigger equipment allows farmers to cover more ground in less time; however, this can be a hazard when electrical infrastructures are nearby.
- Inexperienced, fatigued or distracted operators are more likely to come in contact with a power line or pole.
- Sources of electricity include power lines, electrical boxes, and damaged (non-grounded) guy wires.

If your equipment does hit a power line, pole, or guy wire, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

Safe Electricity.org

October is Public Power Month



At the heart of public power is **LOCAL CONTROL!**

All public power decisions are made by **PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU**, elected from **YOUR COMMUNITY!**



It is the responsibility of these elected board members to ensure **SAFE, AFFORDABLE, AND RELIABLE** electric service in their district.

Public power means **ACCESS FOR YOU, THE CUSTOMER!**

All Board meetings are **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**. By asking questions and giving feedback, customers **HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC POWER!**



Nebraska's publicly controlled rural electric utilities have **OPERATED SUCCESSFULLY** this way for nearly **125 YEARS!**



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ENSURES THE SUCCESS OF PUBLIC POWER!

WORKINGFORNEBRASKA



Pumpkin Bars

4 large eggs
1-2/3 cups sugar
1 cup canola oil
1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin
2 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt

Icing:

6 ounces cream cheese, softened
2 cups confectioners' sugar
1/4 cup butter, softened
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 to 2 tablespoons 2% milk

In a bowl, beat the eggs, sugar, oil and pumpkin until well blended. Combine the flour, cinnamon, baking powder, baking soda and salt; gradually add to pumpkin mixture and mix well. Pour into an ungreased 15x10 inch baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes or until set. Cool completely.

For icing, beat the cream cheese, confectioners' sugar, butter and vanilla in a small bowl. Add enough milk to achieve spreading consistency. Spread over bars.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you recently made or plan to make energy efficiency improvements to your home, you may be eligible for federal tax credits. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 empowers homeowners to save money on energy efficiency improvements and upgrades. Homeowners can save up to \$3,000 annually to lower the cost of efficiency upgrades by up to 30%.

A few upgrades covered through the IRA include new exterior doors, windows, insulation, heating/cooling equipment and other major appliances. If you completed an upgrade this year or you are considering one, visit www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits.gov to learn if you qualify for a tax credit.

Source: energystar.gov



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**During normal office hours
and after hours call:**

(308) 586-1824 or

(877) 773-6300

October Board Meeting:

October 16th - 8:00 am

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ENERGY VAMPIRES

DON'T LET THEM DRAIN YOUR WALLET



Many household appliances are using energy even when not in use, including televisions, computers, DVD players, cable boxes with DVR, cell phone chargers, printers, and game consoles. Depending on how many appliances are used, costs can quickly add up to \$100-200 a year.

Learn how you can stop energy vampires at SafeElectricity.org.