

August 2010

Looking At Ways to Save

By Rick Nelson, General Manager

With the heat of the summer upon us, I thought it was time to revisit a recent poll that Custer performed. We found that over half of our customers were very interested in the following three programs.

Rebates on Attic insulation:

This rebate or incentive is for existing dwellings only and the primary heating system must be electric or a heat pump. Electric heat must be in the form of baseboard heating or radiant heating.

Existing attic insulation levels are assumed to be an average of 6 inches or less and you must install 6 inches or more or an R-19 value of new insulation. The proof of purchase must indicate type and quantity of the insulation installed.

The incentives are calculated by taking the area insulated (Square Feet) times (x) \$0.15 per square foot. This would equal the incentive you will receive. Incentives are limited to \$300 per dwelling that is individually metered.

Recycling old Refrigerators:

Chances are that you have a second or even third refrigerator in the garage or basement and it's also likely that the extra refrigerator is an old one. This recycling program is designed for you to work with Custer PPD in reducing your electric bill and also dispose of that old refrigerator in an environmentally friendly way.

The incentive for the recycling program is \$35 for each appliance (limited to two). Refrigerators or freezers are both accepted and must be in working order. Just call 1-866-444-9160 and set up an appointment for pickup.



Free Home energy Audit:

A home energy audit will identify energy efficiency opportunities in your home. These audits are free and sponsored by Custer PPD and Nebraska Public Power District. The audit will look at your heating and cooling system, insulation, lighting and air leaks in the building. You will receive a report listing energy efficiency opportunities identified during the audit. The report will also list the associ-

ated EnergyWise energy efficiency incentives available from Custer PPD, along with low interest financing and tax credit information available on the Nebraska Energy Office web site <http://www.neo.ne.gov/>

Prior to calling the office and scheduling one of these audits, please take a moment to visit our website www.custerpower.com and click on the Home Energy Calculator to see if there are things you can easily do to increase efficiency in your home.

Of course, these were the three most popular, but there are a number of other rebates as well.

- High Efficiency Heat Pump incentives of \$200 and \$400 with a minimum 14 SEER and 8.2 HSPF
- Cooling system Tune up: We pay \$30 for your residential cooling system tune up.
- \$30 Window Air conditioner incentive
- CFL Give Away. You can bring in up to 10 incandescent light bulbs to exchange for 10 CFL's.
- Low Flow shower heads.

On top of these you can go to our website and find ways you can make your home more efficient by clicking on the Apogee Online Energy Audit. If you have any questions, please call the office. We are committed to helping everyone reduce their electric bill.

2nd Annual “Truck Roadeo”

The 2nd Annual Truck Roadeo took place at Custer PPD in Broken Bow, on July 13, 2010. The Driving Course is designed to test an operator’s ability to maneuver a vehicle through a series of obstacles in a continuous motion that simulates actual driving conditions.

Twenty-four employees participated in events designed by the Safety Committee. The winner was Jeff Wardyn with a score of 1770 out of a possible 2000 points. Shane Sallach was second with a score of 1750 and Mick Clark was third with a score of 1725. Jeff received a monogrammed shirt and will have his name on a traveling plaque that will hang on the wall of the Operations Meeting Room.



Jeff Wardyn takes first place in Roadeo

Posting Items to Utility Poles Creates Safety Risks

Signs, balloons and other materials on utility poles are more than just an unpleasant neighborhood eyesore, they can be dangerous - even life threatening - to the professionals who maintain our vital lines of electricity, communication and other services. Custer Power urges everyone to help keep utility poles free of such materials.

The clamped safety boots used by line workers to climb poles are vulnerable to becoming snagged on staples and nails embedded in posts. Foreign objects can also tear utility worker’s protective clothing, which is the first line of protection from an electric shock. They can also injure workers despite the safety gear they wear to avoid contact with rough surfaces.

Such practices also present a public safety hazard as well. The materials posted on the poles not only distract people as they drive, but they also degrade the quality, effectiveness and stability of the wood. This poses a safety hazard for pedestrians as they walk by and increases the risk failure if the pole is struck by a vehicle. Posting items to utility poles is usually a violation of local ordinances as well.

It is also just as important to avoid tampering with or disrupting the guy wires that surround utility poles as well. Please inform children not to play or swing on them, and maintain your distance when performing yard work. If you see the poles or guy wires are disrupted in some way, please call Custer Public Power immediately.



Youth Energy Camp '10

The week of July 19-23 was the Nebraska Rural Electric Youth Energy Camp at the State 4-H campsite in Halsey. There were 64 teenagers attending this camp from all over the state. Custer Public Power District sponsored 6 youths and 1 junior counselor this year.

The week consists of several activities for the youth. Seminars are held on various topics including demonstrations on energy, benefits of teamwork, electrical effects, safety, and high voltage. Campers also have a chance to see how well they can climb a pole. In the middle of the week the campers and counselors load onto buses and head to Kingsley Hydro-Electric generating station at Lake McConaughy in Ogallala, then off to Gerald Gentleman Station at Sutherland. The youth and adults get a very informative tour of the coal burning power plant owned by Nebraska Public Power District. There are also some fun activities for the youth like canoeing and various water sports.

All youth attending the camp have an opportunity to try for an all expense paid trip to Washington D.C. as an ambassador for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual Youth tour held in June. This tour brings high school students from across the country representing 1,000 rural electric systems. They get to share ideas, learn about rural electrification and tour the nation's capital. This competition consists of applying for the position and then their peers vote on the top ten finalists.

This is a unique opportunity to participate in a learning and educational experience while forming memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. So, if you are in grades 9-11 be watching for our application to attend camp next year. This is a wonderful experience for all those attending.



Ashley Brakhage



Alesha Hall



Kory Phillips



Sara Cooksley



Katelyn Tucker



Shiann Tucker

Texas Caviar

What You Need

- 1 green pepper, diced
- 1 bunch green onions, diced
- ½ bunch fresh cilantro, chopped
- ½ bunch fresh parsley, chopped
- 4 clove garlic, minced
- 2 to 4 jalapenos, seeds removed
- 1 can white corn, drained
- 1 can black eyed peas, drained
- 1 small can sliced black olives, drained
- 1 (8oz.) bottle of Italian dressing
- *2 tomatoes, diced small
- *2 avocados, diced small



Make It

Mix first 9 ingredients together. Add Italian dressing and mix until ingredients are coated.

*Just before serving add the tomatoes and avocados. Enjoy with chips!

Notes

Custer Power would like to extend a big "thank you" to our friends at Eakes Office Plus for bringing this tasty recipe to our attention. When we read the ingredients we thought it sounded like a taste test would be a great idea. Manager Nelson had many of the ingredients in his garden and volunteered for the project. The office staff thought it was a winner. If you want to save a few more calories, we found the Italian dressing could be eliminated. However, the nutritional information needs to be adjusted for the "good" fat in the avocado. Sorry, but you need to add the calories in the chips, also.

Nutritional Information

Makes 4 cups or 32 servings (2 Tbsp. each)

Calories: 21
 Total fat: 1.3 g
 Cholesterol: 0 mg

CUSTER CURRENTS

Newsletter of the
**CUSTER PUBLIC POWER
 DISTRICT**

Broken Bow, NE - Phone 872-2451
www.custerpower.com

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Board Meetings

The regular monthly meeting of the Custer Public Power District Board of Directors is on the last Thursday of each month, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the main office in Broken Bow on Hwy. 2.

An agenda for each regular meeting of the board is available for public inspection during business hours.

In the event of matters of an emergency nature or conflicts with other meeting dates, the Board of Directors will set changes. Any change in the monthly meeting date will be posted in the legal notice at the main headquarters building at Broken Bow and at each of the District's area service centers located in Callaway, Sargent, Stapleton and Thedford, Nebraska.