

September 2010

It's Worth Repeating

By Rick Nelson, General Manager

September sends the kids back to school and it also brings me back to the radio. Beginning September 10, I will be on KCNI/KBBN Friday mornings at 8:30 a.m. during the "Get Up and Go, Breakfast Show" with Dave Birnie and Bob Bowles.

I'm looking forward to these programs this fall, because we will have more guests from NPPD to talk about generation and transmission costs, the new transmission project for the wind farm, the NPPD strategic planning process, and many other topics. I will also try to get a few guests to talk about energy efficiency and energy legislation.

As always, we'll be talking about energy efficiency and other energy related topics with Dave and Bob and will be taking your calls on the radio show.

Speaking of energy efficiency, it's a good time to get your furnace inspected. For Custer customers, we have a rebate to put towards getting your heating and air-conditioning inspected. Always remember to change your filters at least once a month and depending on the season, please try to set the thermostat a few degrees warmer in the summer and a few degrees colder in the winter.

If you think about how much energy a few degrees of room temperature would save when multiplied by thousands of homes, it really does make a difference.

I know that just about everybody has done something to be more energy efficient because of



the number of CFLs we've given away and the number of rebate checks we've processed. Well, now it's time to talk to your neighbor, friends and family. We are still giving away CFL bulbs if you bring in an incandescent light bulb. We want you to check out the many energy efficient rebates that we offer, from heat pumps to insulation for the attic.

If you're planning on a project this fall before the weather turns too cold, make sure to give us a call so we can get you a rebate for qualifying items. Insulation is very popular, along with caulk to seal up those open areas. A little weather stripping along the door can make a big dent, too. Nebraska is a pretty big state, and it's time we stopped trying to heat the Great Outdoors all winter long.

We have done a fair number of school energy audits and home audits. Make sure to look at our website and click on the Apogee link to see how your house stacks up on energy efficiency, then give us a call to schedule an audit of your house, school, business or government building.

Don't forget about our refrigerator rebate program. We will take away your old refrigerator and pay you \$35. It's a great way to get rid of that old refrigerator and get paid to do it.

Together we have the power to make a difference. Think about it. Is there one little thing you could do between now and next month to save a kilowatt?

Look up and look out for farm electrical safety

Custer Public Power District is urging farmers to 'look up and look out' for overhead transmission and distribution lines. There have been recent incidents involving boom sprayers, grain augers and farm equipment becoming entangled in overhead transmission and distribution lines, creating power outages in several local communities.

"We want to remind farmers to 'look up and look out' when entering and leaving fields," said Tom Knott, Director of Operations and Loss Control for CPPD. "We have had incidents where the boom sprayers were raised becoming caught in the overhead transmission lines. Fortunately, no one was electrocuted or shocked in any incident; but, unfortunately, outages were created for residents and businesses."

Tom urges farmers to be aware of their proximity to the lines and what they can do to protect themselves in the event equipment gets entangled in the power lines.

Tom explained that every effort should be made to avoid having farm equipment come into contact with power lines and ensure that there is plenty of clearance. "Farm equipment should maintain a minimum 10-foot clearance from lines because electricity can arc through the air between the line and grounded equipment," said Tom. He also explained that rubber tires for insulation should not be counted on as an insulator from electricity since many contain steel and carbon black that conduct electricity.

Some safety tips for farming operations include:

- Move irrigation pipe, augers, and other farm equipment with extreme caution. Aluminum irrigation pipe is light, easy to carry and conducts electricity. It is difficult to control when the wind

catches it. Instead of fighting the wind, drop the pipe if there are power lines nearby. Lower tillage equipment before pulling it under power lines and make sure that truck beds are completely lowered.



- If your machinery or vehicle comes in contact with a power line, stay inside your vehicle and wait for utility personnel to de-energize the line. Warn others to stay away. If there is danger of fire, jump clear. Be careful not to touch the ground and the vehicle at the same time. Land with your feet close together. Keeping

your feet together, shuffle or hop away until clear of danger. Electricity can spread out through the ground in a concentric circle from the area of the downed line.

- Exercise caution after a storm; stay clear of downed power lines. Report outages to your local power supplier as soon as possible.
- Always have an emergency plan in place. Teach all family members what to do in case of an emergency. Don't touch or move anyone who is in contact with electricity. You could be shocked. When calling 911 or your local emergency number, be sure to report an electric-contact accident.

Additional information on farm electrical safety is available at: www.custerpower.com/farmsafety.html

**Safety begins with
being alert.**

Nebraska Youth Tour 2010

By: Hannah Meeks



My trip to Washington D.C. with the Nebraska Rural Electric Association was a trip of a lifetime. I want to thank Custer Public Power and the Board of Directors for sending me to Washington D.C. June 11th-17th. It was an awesome opportunity to spend with fourteen other delegates and two amazing sponsors.

Our journey began on Friday the 11th when all of us met in Lincoln. We visited the state capitol and then headed to Omaha to fly to the great city of D.C.! The sights were spectacular. I loved seeing all the memorials at night! My favorite museum was the Holocaust museum, I studied about the Holocaust my junior year in school, so the museum was not only educational but very emotional. On the day we went to the National Capitol to the Nebraska Breakfast we met with Senators Ben Nelson, and Mike Johanns, we also met with

Congressmen Adrian Smith and Jeff Fortenberry. It was really interesting to hear their views on issues that not only affect Nebraska but my community as well.

There were 42 states represented (about 1,500 kids total) who all sat together during Youth Day. Our first speaker was a former youth delegate who told us about being a good leader. Former Senator George W. Norris (Former Senator David Landis) took us back into the 1930's and the start of public power. Mike Schlappi also paid us a visit, he is a 4-time Paralympics Medalist, and he had been shot at a very young age and told us about how he made it through his trials. His theme was "If You Can't Stand Up, Stand Out!"

It was an incredible week. You may be wondering how I got there?! In the summer of 2009 I attended Energy Camp at the Halsey National Forest. At the camp we all learned about our Public Power Electric Systems and did lots of activities. I made a lot of new friends and stay in contact with many of them! I would recommend this camp to anyone looking for a learning experience and a great time!



Up and Coming Opportunity!

Custer Power is finalizing the necessary details to make it possible for customers to pay their bill by e-check, credit card, or debit card via the phone or on-line through our website. The launch date is scheduled for sometime in November. More details will follow as the process moves along.



Beef Sandwiches with Beet Spread

Ingredients

4 ounces cream cheese, softened
1 whole fresh beet, cooked, peeled and mashed (about 1/2 cup)
1/4 cup prepared horseradish
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 tablespoon white vinegar
1-1/2 teaspoons sugar
Dash cayenne pepper
8 hard rolls, split and toasted
8 teaspoons butter, softened
1 pound thinly sliced deli roast beef
8 lettuce leaves
8 slices tomato
8 slices onion

Recipe by: Taste of Home



8 Servings Prep/Total Time: 25 min.

Directions

In a small bowl, beat cream cheese and beet until blended. Beat in the horseradish, lemon juice, vinegar, sugar and cayenne.

Spread rolls with butter and beet spread. Layer with beef, lettuce, tomato and onion. Yield: 8 servings.

Nutritional Information

1 sandwich equals 356 calories
15 g fat (8 g saturated fat)
65 mg cholesterol
1,214 mg sodium
36 g carbohydrate
18 g protein
2 g fiber



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.