

February 2012

Empowering Progress

By Rick Nelson, General Manager

The recent mild weather has allowed us to get some much-needed work done on several projects that need to be up and running by June 2012.

Although demand for electricity has been slow or even negative elsewhere in the nation, Custer is seeing growth because of the agriculture we serve. That growth is a good thing for all customers. It helps spread our costs over more meters and more kilowatt hours sold.

Two of the projects contributing to our growth are the Andersons Inc. grain loading facility and the Stapleton irrigation project.

The grain loading facility located just outside of Anselmo is a great addition to our load and we're excited to have them as a customer. We will have to build almost a mile of line to a new substation to feed the facility. We have the underground power lines installed for this project, but work on the substation hasn't begun yet. It will take several months to get that accomplished.

The other project is the Stapleton irrigation project. In an area south and west of Stapleton there are over 60 wells. This project will also require us to build a new substation and over 20 miles of three-phase lines. We have more than 30 wells signed up for 2012. The clock is ticking to get the



lines built and the substation done. We'll be working on this project into the summer to get all the wells connected. We are currently working on the three-phase lines and the substation.

These are just two examples of load growth in our service territory. There are more than 25 additional irrigation wells and numerous other services to get done as well.

I mentioned this on one of my radio shows in January; if you need an irrigation well this season, please call in now. With our workload this winter and spring, we'll be working hard to get as much as we can done by irrigation season. The sooner we know you want a well, the better we can plan.

As we work to get these new services completed, we keep a constant eye on our mission: "To safely deliver electricity to our customers/owners, keep the District in a sound financial position, and exceed expectations in service and reliability."

Together we have the power to make a difference.

2012 is off to a great start. Let's all work together to make it a great year.

Are you using engine block heaters?

Nothing can be more aggravating in the winter than jumping into your vehicle and turning the key in the ignition, only to find the engine will not start. And it is bitterly cold outside!

Some choose to use a block heater to help their vehicle or tractor start during cold weather. However, if you do not pay attention to how you use this nifty device, it could end up costing you more than twice its initial purchase price each winter. You may be tempted to “plug” it in when you get home every day so your vehicle will start easily the next morning. If you are using a 500-watt heater for 12 hours per day from November through February, you can expect to pay around \$100 for this convenience.

Here are a few tips for managing that cost.

- Unless it is going to be colder than 10° or 15°F outside, it is usually not necessary to plug in your vehicle. The electronic fuel and ignition systems in today’s vehicles automatically adjust to compensate for cold temperatures.
- Consider using a timer on your heater to reduce unnecessary usage. Research done by the Agricultural Engineering Department of the University of Saskatchewan has shown that operating a block heater for longer than four hours prior to starting a vehicle is a waste of energy. It was found that engine coolant temperature increased by about 36°F during a four-hour period. However, continued use of the heater for an additional one to two hours only achieved an additional 3° to 5°F increase.
- Consider an engine heater with reduced wattage.
- Electric battery blankets typically draw less power than block heaters and still condition the battery to provide ample electrons that will get the engine started when it is bitter out.



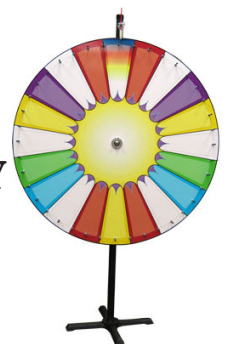
Having peace-of-mind that your car will start on the coldest days should not have to cost you an arm-and-a-leg. By making some EnergyWise choices this winter, you can be assured you will get to your destination and be energy efficient at the same time.

TOWN & COUNTRY FARM & HOME SHOW

Stop by our booth and see how making a few changes in everyday living can save you money.

**Wednesday, February 15, 2012
Red Line Equipment
West Hwy 2 ♦ Broken Bow**

**SPIN THE
WHEEL AND
WIN AN ENERGY
SAVING PRIZE**



Take Charge Of Energy Use To Manage Your Farm Dollars Wisely

Among other skills, operating a farm or ranch successfully takes foresight, planning, and good money management skills. Take advantage of opportunities to conserve energy and save money at the same time on your farm or ranch. An agricultural energy audit is a useful tool for identifying and prioritizing such opportunities.

The goal of such a review is to find ways to reduce energy usage without negatively affecting the production of your agricultural business. The first step is to assess current energy use. Review past energy bills and begin to record energy usage in order to establish a baseline. Identify sources of energy usage, and prioritize them according to opportunities for energy and cost savings.



Conduct an on-site walk-through. Make note of the condition and operation of systems that use energy. Also, directly measuring a system's power use is valuable when prioritizing options for savings.

Develop a cost-effective plan that outlines potential changes. Such plans may include items such as:

- Installing more efficient lighting
- Sealing air leaks in and adding insulation to buildings (i.e., house, shop)
- Installing more efficient heaters, circulation and/or ventilation fans
- Cutting back fuel usage through regular equipment maintenance and use of proper tractor and gear settings

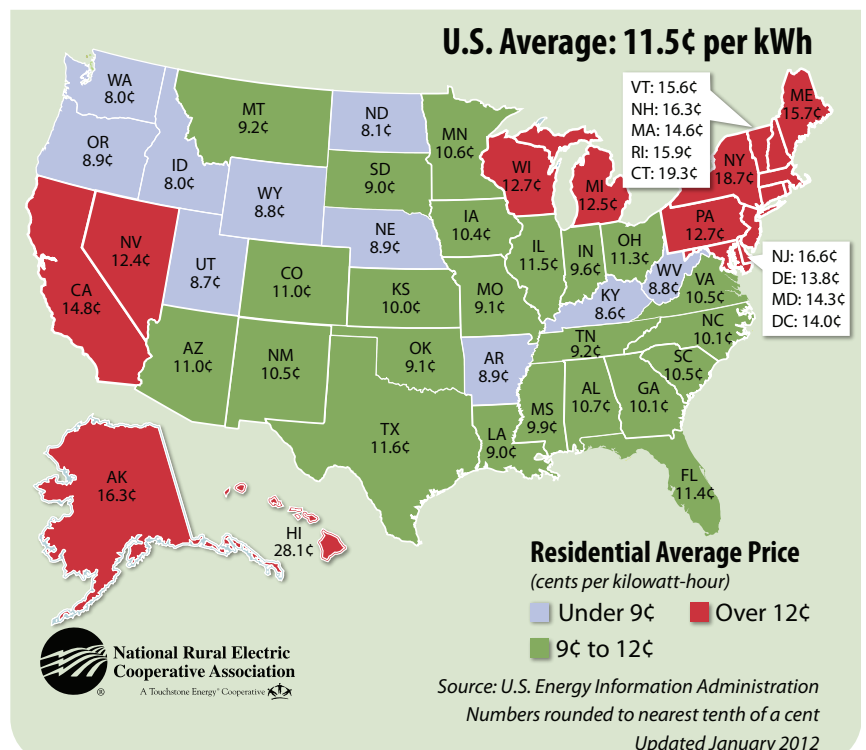
energy savers

Cook Up Some Savings

Your kitchen provides a lot of ways to save without sacrificing flavor. Use the microwave or crock-pot when possible. Size pots to the corresponding burners. Also as tempting as it is to peek, keep lids on pans and oven doors closed to seal in the heat.

Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2010 figures, in cents per kWh



Slow-Cooker Berry Cobbler

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: 2 hours

What You Need

1-1/4 cups all-purpose flour, divided
2 tablespoons plus 1 cup sugar, divided
1 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 egg, lightly beaten
1/4 cup fat-free milk
2 tablespoons canola oil
1/8 teaspoon salt
2 cups unsweetened raspberries
2 cups unsweetened blueberries
2 cups low-fat vanilla frozen yogurt, optional



Directions

In a large bowl, combine 1 cup flour, 2 tablespoons sugar, baking powder and cinnamon. In a small bowl, combine the egg, milk and oil; stir into dry ingredients just until moistened (batter will be thick). Spread batter evenly onto the bottom of a 5-qt. slow cooker coated with cooking spray.

In a large bowl, combine the salt and remaining flour and sugar; add berries and toss to coat. Spread over batter.

Cover and cook on high for 2 to 2-1/2 hours or until a toothpick inserted into cobbler comes out without crumbs. Top each serving with 1/4 cup frozen yogurt if desired. Yield: 8 servings.

Nutritional Facts

1 serving (calculated without frozen yogurt) equals 250 calories, 4 g fat (trace saturated fat), 27 mg cholesterol, 142 mg sodium, 51 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 3 g protein.



CUSTER CURRENTS

Newsletter of the
**CUSTER PUBLIC POWER
DISTRICT**

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

Serving Custer, Loup, Blaine, Thomas,
Hooker, McPherson, Logan and parts of
Sherman, Garfield, Brown, Cherry,
Lincoln, and Dawson Counties

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and Loss Control
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Administration

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.