



The Public Power Legacy

by Rick Nelson



This July is no different than any other July where I want to talk about the history and how we got here from a public power perspective. There is some added weight this year and we think about all of the people who have sacrificed for this country. While we have had our lives turned upside down for a while, there's light at the end of the tunnel.

It is more of a feeling of honor as we reflect to a time in our country's history and remember how the actions of a few helped shape the way we live today. I think back on the rich history of the public power movement and how a small group of determined individuals was able to improve their quality of life and the quality of life for all those who would come after.

Every day, Custer Public Power customers/owners and employees pay homage to the legacy of our public power founders. We know we have the power to impact our present and shape the future just like those who came before us because we are a part of a public power district.

Public Power Districts leverage our collective power to get things done. We put together irrigation projects that save our customers money in the long run. We participate in local economic development groups and bring in Nebraska Public Power District to help facilitate strong partnerships.

Public Power Districts work together partnering with other power districts, local businesses, and community organizations to achieve economic development goals. Creating better opportunities and increasing the quality of life for our families and communities – just like our founding public power members did 75 years ago.

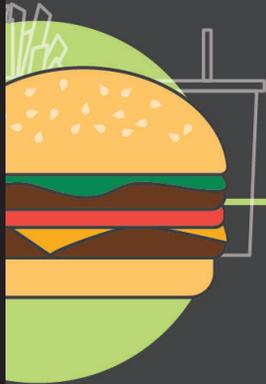
We understand that the decisions we make today could affect how future generations live, so we invest in energy efficiency programs that protect our future generations while still providing high-quality, affordable electricity. Some of these programs include heat pump rebates, insulation rebates, commercial lighting rebates, and much more.

Public Power Districts help in building leaders in the communities we serve. While most of those activities educate and promote youth interested in entering a field associated with public power through scholarships and internships. These opportunities are not just for future linemen, but many different aspects of our business through activities like the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour, and the NREA Leadership Camp in Halsey which were unfortunately canceled this year.

All of these things, plus so much more, are what make-up the public power difference. This Fourth of July, as we think about the future of public power districts and how we will continue to shape our country and our society, Custer Public Power remembers what it took to bring power to our communities and let the determination of those who came before us guide us. ♦



THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY



\$5.30

average cost of a Big Mac® value meal

\$3.87

average daily cost of power



Electricity is expressed on a daily basis using EIA 2018 Average U.S. Monthly Residential Bill of \$117. Big Mac® is a registered trademark of McDonald's Corporation. McDonald's Corporation does not endorse or sponsor this material.

Sources: Economist.com and EIA, 2018 data.

2020 Scholarship Recipient

Tristan Sawyer-Kociemba



Custer Public Power District has awarded the 2020 Lineman Scholarship to Tristan Sawyer-Kociemba of Broken Bow. Tristan will be attending Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, South Dakota this fall.

Custer Public Power District wishes Tristan the best of luck as they start a new adventure.

Congratulations!

Presidential elections aren't the only ones that matter. State and local elections have a huge impact on our daily lives.

Public Power plays a unique and special role in Nebraska. Custer Public Power District has two Board of Directors posts that will be up for election November 3, 2020, in the General Elections.

Custer Public Power District's Directors take their tenure seriously because they are the voice of the people who have elected them. Each Director serves a six-year term. Each Director will learn the Public Power role in Nebraska. With committing to be a Director, they will spend time understanding their role and responsibility, stay up-to-date on key issues and trends in the industry, and prepare to face the challenges Public Power has now, and in the future.



The Nebraska Rural Electric Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association have meetings and certificate programs that help each Director meet the obligations while serving on the Custer Public Power District's Board of Directors.

Nebraska is the only state where every home and business receives electric service from a publicly owned utility. Public Power is your power.



Irrigation Safety

During the irrigation season, Custer Public Power encourages you to take time to work safely around electrical power sources. Approximately 62 farmers die every year after being electrocuted. Farming safety starts with you. Nobody can take your place.

Stop, think, and put safety first to prevent possible electrical contact. Make sure that irrigation system wiring is properly grounded. Before the start of each irrigation season, have a qualified electrician check the pump and wiring.

If fuses continually blow or circuit breakers repeatedly trip, have a professional check the wiring. This could indicate a potential electrical hazard.

If you're using irrigation pipe, be sure to store any unused pipes far away from power lines or electrical equipment and position irrigation pipes at least 10 feet away from any power lines when in use. In the case of lightning, stay away from the piping and install lightning arresters to protect your equipment.

When moving irrigation pipe, keep them parallel to the ground rather than vertical to minimize the risk of contact with power lines. If an irrigation pipe comes in contact with a power line, never try to remove it yourself. Stay away from it and call Custer Public Power for help.

Keep end guns and end gun pivot supports at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Know the heights of the towers, and the heights and lengths of the piping system. Maintain proper clearances from power lines at all times.

Make sure pivot stops are in working condition and allow for at least 10 feet clearance of power lines, irrigation towers, and extensions.

Note that extreme weather can move your equipment and power lines, so always survey the work area after a storm.

Always shut off and lock the master electrical control switch before servicing equipment.

**Custer Public Power District
wants everyone to have a
safe and fun summer.**

**Stop, Think, Safety First
Nobody can take your place.**



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

Officers & Directors

Brad Bartak, Merna.....President
John Blakeman, Merna.....Vice President
Greg Smith, Milburn.....Secretary
Brad Howard, Litchfield.....Treasurer
Tom Roberts, Loup City.....Asst. Treasurer
Lloyd Ramsey, Broken Bow.....Director
Wayne V. Licking, Thedford.....Director

Staff

Rick Nelson.....General Manager
Jerry Spanel.....Operations Manager
Cheryl Taylor.....Director of Finance and Administration
Dustin Miller.....Purchasing Agent

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 9:00 a.m.(CDT) 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.



Strawberry-Rhubarb Ice Pops



Ingredients

- 3 cups chopped fresh or frozen rhubarb (1/2 inch)
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons water
- 1 cup strawberry yogurt
- 1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 1/4 cup finely chopped fresh strawberries
- 2 drops red food coloring, *optional*
- 8 freezer pop molds or 8 paper cups (3 ounces each) and wooden pop sticks

Directions

Place rhubarb, sugar and water in a large saucepan; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, until thick and blended, 10-15 minutes. Remove 3/4 cup mixture to a bowl; cool completely. (Save remaining rhubarb for another use.)

Add yogurt, applesauce and strawberries to bowl; stir until blended. If desired, tint with food coloring. Fill each mold or cup with about 1/4 cup rhubarb mixture. Top molds with holders; top cups with foil and insert sticks through foil. Freeze until firm.

Note

If using frozen rhubarb, measure rhubarb while still frozen, then thaw completely. Drain in a colander, but do not press liquid out.

Nutrition Facts

1 pop: 72 calories, 0 fat (0 saturated fat), 2mg cholesterol, 18mg sodium, 16g carbohydrate (14g sugars, 1g fiber), 2g protein. Diabetic Exchanges: 1 starch.

Recipe can be found online at www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/strawberry-rhubarb-ice-pops/

