



Advanced Communications

by Rick Nelson

When electricity first came to rural Nebraska, it was a joy to plug in the first refrigerator, to turn on a light for the first time, or to run a washing machine.

Now bear with me for a little bit, some exciting things are about to happen. First, we must understand where we've come from to understand where we are going.

Back in those early days, the customer-owner would read the meter once a month and either figure the bill on their own or they would mail in a meter reading and Custer Power would send a bill out. It was something they had to do every month.

Those first meters were electromechanical meters

that were reliable and able to accurately record the actual usage of electricity. Electromechanical meters worked well for generations.

About 10 years ago Custer Power began switching to electronic meters. The days of reading your meter were over for good. Some of you may not even remember those days, but if you have ever read your meter in knee-deep snow, you remember.

The electronic meters save you the time and trouble of reading the meters yourself and they do much more than simply providing billing information for you.

Electronic meters help Custer Power when we are troubleshooting an outage. We can instantly see who has power and who doesn't, and that reduces the time needed to figure out what went wrong so we can get the power back on more quickly.

Another major benefit is behind-the-scenes and requires more explanation. So, here I go.

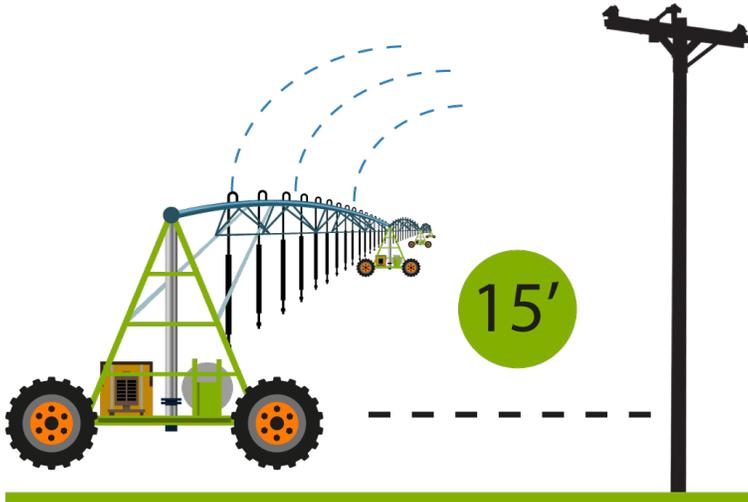
Electricity is a strange animal. Custer Power has to keep the voltage within an acceptable range to protect the system and the stuff you have plugged into it. Too much and electricity starts frying your equipment. Not enough is also not good, computers and motors don't like that, either.

(continued on page C of Custer Currents)



A few things to keep in mind as you move from spring to summer.

Keep **IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT** and **water streams** 15 feet away from overhead power lines.



Safe Electricity.org

research collected from National Agriculture Safety Database

LOOK OUT

FOR POWER SOURCES



Do not get within 10 feet (in any direction) of a power line.

Be aware of power lines when working on the roof.



Do not trim branches or limbs near power lines.

Be careful when carrying long or tall objects such as ladders or poles.



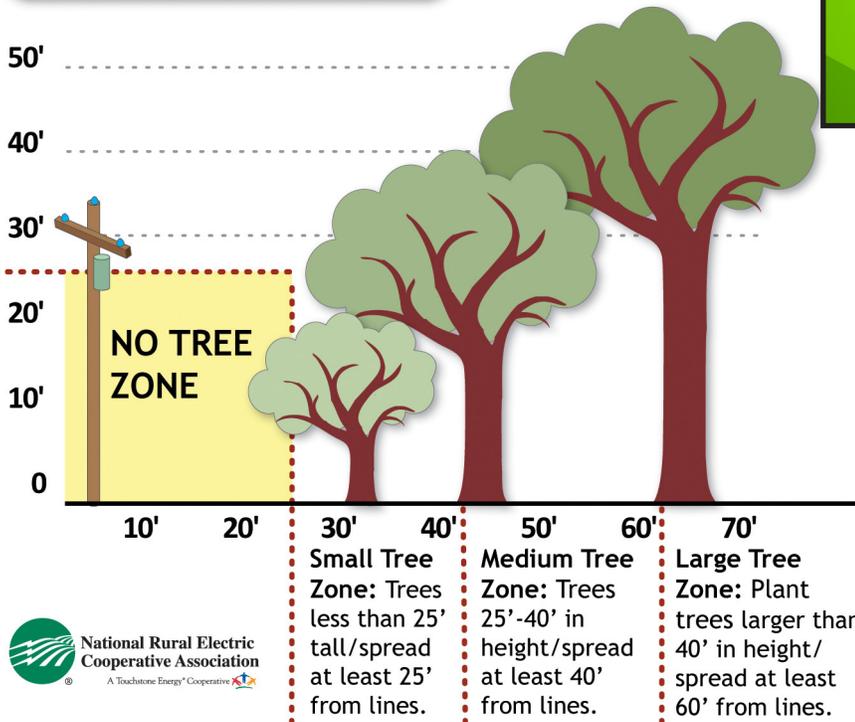
Before you dig, call 811 to have underground utilities marked.



Do not dig near padmount transformers or other utility equipment.

Safe Electricity.org

Tree Planting Guide



National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



**A Salute to Those Graduating in the
Custer Public Power Family**

Congratulations!

The Future is Yours Class of 2020

Martin L. Bailey

Broken Bow High School

Parents: Jeff and Nicolle (GIS Specialist) Bailey

Jessie Sallach

Callaway High School

Parents: Shane (Lead Lineman-Callaway) & Kim Sallach



The problem is that the current on the line fluctuates when people turn stuff on and turn stuff off.

Sometimes that makes it difficult for Custer Power to keep the system within the boundaries required by safety standards (and common sense). Custer Power has to “overbuild” the system to cope with occasional heavy use and “over-regulate it” to stay in bounds.

By helping Custer Power better manage those fluctuations, electronic meters have helped us run the system more efficiently. Electronic meters enable us to track things like voltage to make sure we are operating the system correctly and to squeeze everything we can out of the gear before spending money to replace it.

This is where the exciting part

comes in. Custer Power is changing out those meters for new meters that will allow so much more and communicate much more efficiently. Understanding the voltage and amperes is one thing but having that and interruption data in “*real-time*” is another.

Having information at Custer Power’s fingertips about who has an outage and who doesn’t, increases Custer Power’s efficiency and allows us to increase our already reliable system to something much more. Many good things are coming for our customer-owners as we change these meters out. As we’ve seen in the past few months, being able to use technology will further enhance the Custer Power customer-owner experience.

Getting ready for the new meters, Custer Power has

expanded fiber optic cable to our substations and towers to better communicate in real-time. This expansion has hopefully helped some of our customers along the way.

Having “*advanced*” means of communicating within our service territory and more specifically with our equipment and meters in the field will pay dividends way into the future. Expanding services that hopefully will provide Custer Power customer-owners with information and a better way to communicate with us in the future.

Custer Power is excited about the changes that are coming, and we are asking for your patience as we travel throughout our service territory and change these meters to facilitate better communications. ♦

Chipotle Mexican Street Corn Dip with Goat Cheese



photo by Taste of Home

Ingredients

- 3 medium ears sweet corn
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 cup crumbled goat cheese
- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chiles
- 1 jar (4 ounces) diced pimientos, drained
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped chipotle peppers in adobo sauce
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh cilantro
- 1 to 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 1-1/2 teaspoons grated lime zest
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- Tortilla chips

Directions

Brush corn with oil. Grill corn, covered, over medium heat until lightly browned and tender, 10-12 minutes, turning occasionally. Cool slightly. Preheat oven to 350°. Cut corn from cobs; transfer to a large bowl. Stir in goat cheese, mayonnaise, green chiles, pimientos, green onions, chipotle pepper, cilantro, lime juice and zest, cumin and chili powder. Transfer to a greased 1-1/2-qt. baking dish. Bake until bubbly and golden brown, 35-40 minutes. Serve with tortilla chips.

Test Kitchen tips:

The chipotle peppers, along with the cumin and chili powder, add a smoky heat to this creamy dip. Three medium ears will yield about 2 cups corn kernels.

<https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/chipotle-mexican-street-corn-dip-with-goat-cheese/>



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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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.

