

CUSTER

PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

With Area Service Centers in Sargent,
Callaway, Stapleton and Thedford

Currents



Public Power Week

October 4 - 10, 2026

Proudly Serving Rural Nebraska

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New Irrigation Service Request Update

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© Gayle Neal

Newsletter of the

Custer Public Power District

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

Custer Public Power
District Newsletter
is published bimonthly by:

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From the **GENERAL MANAGER'S** *desk*

Fall is Here

As summer begins to wind down, harvest season quickly becomes the focus for many people across our district. Fall is always a busy time in central Nebraska, and it is especially important that we all keep safety in mind while working around electric lines.

Large equipment and overhead power lines can be a dangerous combination. Before moving combines, grain carts, augers, or other equipment, take a moment to look around and identify nearby power lines. Maintain a safe distance whenever possible. If equipment does come into contact with a power line, call 911 and Custer Public Power District. A few extra moments of caution can help prevent a serious accident.

October is also Public Power Week, which gives us an opportunity to recognize what makes Nebraska's electric system different. Custer Public Power District is locally governed, and the decisions we make are based on what is best for the people and communities we serve. Our responsibility is to provide dependable electric service at the lowest reasonable cost while continuing to maintain and improve the system for the future. We appreciate the trust you place in us.

With cooler weather approaching, this

is also a good time to make sure your home is ready for winter. Replacing furnace filters, checking your heating system, and sealing drafts around windows and doors can help improve comfort and reduce energy use. These are fairly simple steps, but they can make a difference once colder weather arrives.

I also want to thank everyone who attended the Nebraska Lineman's Rodeo at the Custer County Fairgrounds in July. It was great to see so many people come out to support the linemen competing from across the state. The rodeo gave the public a closer look at the skill, training, and teamwork required to safely build and maintain our electric system. We were proud to host the event and appreciate everyone who helped make it successful. We look forward to welcoming even more participants and spectators as the rodeo continues to grow in the years ahead.

Thank you for your continued support of Custer Public Power District. Please stay safe during harvest, and do not hesitate to contact us whenever we can be of assistance.

Brad Noack
General Manager
Custer Public Power District

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. (CT) in March at the main office in Broken Bow at 625 E South E 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 Theadford, Nebraska.



with Farmers

Farm season means sharing the road with large farm equipment, which can be wide and slow. Farmers must move slowly in large equipment, but public roads are often the only way to get from point A to point B.

When you find yourself following or meeting large farm equipment on the road, take a deep breath and **do the following to keep everyone safe:**

1

Be alert and cautious, and give large farm equipment and other slow-moving vehicles space.

Do not pass in a "No Passing Zone," or in any area where it is not safe to do so, such as intersections, bridges and railroad crossings, among others.

2

3

Make sure the tractor is not trying to make a left turn before you pass on the left.

Do not tailgate. Following too closely means you could be in the operator's blind spot.

4

5

Be careful when you do get the chance to pass. Oftentimes, farmers will move their equipment over when it is safe to do so.

Source: Texas Table Top
(Texas Farm Bureau)

Safe
Electricity.org®



Left to right: Brian Ridder, Tanner Linn, Jeff Wardyn, Shane Sallach, Mike Needs, Dustin Miller, & David Ruether

Thank you for 140 years of service!

Custer Public Power District would like to recognize and thank these employees for their years of hard work and dedication:

Mike Needs - 35 Years
Shane Sallach - 30 Years
Jeff Wardyn - 25 Years
David Ruether - 20 Years
Dustin Miller - 20 Years
Brian Ridder - 5 Years
Tanner Linn - 5 Years

Together, they represent 140 years of service to the customers of Custer Public Power District.

Thank you for everything you do each day to serve our customers and communities. Your commitment, experience, and dedication make a difference. Custer Power is proud to have you on our team.

Well done!

Youth Leading the Way

Every year, Custer Public Power District sends area High School students to the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) Youth Energy Leadership Camp and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Washington, D.C. Youth Tour.

In June 2025, Eli Rogers and Daniel Wright began their adventure at the NREA Youth Energy Leadership Camp.

They enjoyed team-building activities and tours of the Gerald Gentleman Station at Sutherland and the Kingsley Hydro-Electric Generating Station at Lake McConaughy.

At the camp, both participated in several activities to become NREA Ambassadors for the 2026 NRECA Washington, D.C., Youth Tour. At the end of the 2025 NREA camp, Daniel was chosen as one of three NREA Ambassadors to represent the NREA at the 2026 NRECA Washington, D.C., Youth Tour. Eli attended a Custer Public Power District board meeting and was selected as a Custer Power Washington, D.C., Youth Tour delegate for 2026.

In June 2026, Eli attended the NRECA Washington, D.C., Youth Tour as the Custer Power delegate, and Daniel attended as an NREA Ambassador. Eli and Daniel traveled to Washington, D.C., with 24 other Nebraska public power district representatives to attend the NRECA Washington, D.C., Youth Tour. As a Custer Power delegate and ambassador, they toured the Nation's Capitol including the National Mall and the Smithsonian Museums. They ate breakfast with the Nebraska congressional delegation and visited congressional offices. Trips outside the Beltway included a visit to Gettysburg and Mount Vernon.

Besides the 24 Nebraska delegates, delegates from 41 other states also participated in the NRECA Washington, D.C., Youth Tour. Approximately 1,800 students gathered in Washington, D.C., for this event. While there, the delegates learned about the role of rural electric systems in the national economy, embraced the democratic form of government, were exposed to our Nation's heritage, and built leadership skills so they can make a difference in their rural communities. As part of this experience delegates from each state have the opportunity to pursue the chance to represent their state on the NRECA Youth Leadership Council.



Pg. 4 Top Right - Washington, D.C., Youth Tour delegates at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception



Pg. 4 Center - Eli Rogers & Daniel Wright at the Capitol

Pg 5 Top Left - Washington, D.C., YLC Base Camp Representatives

Pg. 5 Top Right - Eli Rogers at Base Camp

Pg. 5 Center Right - YLC Delegates at the Department of Agriculture

Pg. 5 Center Left - Greg Clark of Kearney leading a team building exercise with the NREA Youth Leadership Camp delegates

Pg. 5 Bottom Right - Kale Dowdy & Daniel Wright at the 2026 NREA Youth Leadership Camp

While there, Eli was chosen as the NREA's delegate to the NRECA Youth Leadership Council (YLC).

As the Nebraska YLC delegate, Eli traveled back to Washington, D.C., to attend the YLC Basecamp with 45 other students from across the United States. At the basecamp, the delegates focused on leadership, collaboration, and advocacy. They met with NRECA leadership, connected with peers, and gained skills for the year ahead. During the next year, Eli will complete a service project with the assistance of Custer Power, prepare a YLC Speech Project, and travel to San Diego, California, in February to attend the NRECA PowerXChange and Tech Advantage Conference. The conference includes General Managers and Directors of cooperatives and public power districts from across the United States, as well as energy leaders.



Eli's YLC Speech Project will be judged by an NRECA panel. If his presentation is chosen, Eli will speak on behalf of the YLC and address attendees at the PowerXChange and Tech Advantage Conference. As part of the YLC program, there are scholarship opportunities, and as an alumnus of the YLC, Eli can apply to work as a paid staff assistant in Washington, D.C., at the NRECA.

In July, Custer Power was represented by Kale Dowdy at the NREA Youth Energy Leadership Camp.

Kale was joined by Daniel Wright who served as camp junior counselor, fulfilling his last duty as a NREA Ambassador and encouraging Kale to embrace the opportunities of camp.



The 2026 NREA Youth Energy Leadership Camp was held July 20 to 24 at Camp Comeca, near Cozad, Neb. There were 34 campers from 19 member systems with eight adult counselors and eight junior counselors.

The 2026 Ambassadors were Hudson Gray of Orchard, Neb. (North Central PPD), Emma Hackbart of Milford, Neb. (Norris PPD), and Oliver Wilcox of McCook, Neb. (McCook PPD).

The 2026 Good Eggs were Amelia Juranek of Seward, Neb. (Norris PPD) and Matthew Rhoades of Cozad, Neb. (Dawson PPD).

Custer Power would like to thank Eli and Daniel for representing our service territory at the NRECA Washington, D.C., Youth Tour, and congratulate Kale on representing Custer Power as a delegate at the 2027 NRECA Washington, D.C., Youth Tour.

These opportunities all begin with attending the NREA Youth Leadership Camp. For more information about the NREA Youth Leadership Camp, please get in touch with Tarin Burrows at 308-872-2451.



RECIPES

Gumdrop Confetti Cookies

Courtesy of Lucille Wolford of Broken Bow, Nebraska

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup shortening
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 cups rolled oats
- 1 cup flaked or shredded coconut
- 1 cup gumdrops, chopped
- 1 cup chopped pecans(optional)



© Tina Heth-Duque

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Grease cookie sheets.
2. Cream shortening and sugars in a large bowl with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Stir in vanilla. Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a separate bowl; gradually stir into creamed mixture until combined. Stir in oats, coconut, pecans, and gumdrops. Roll dough into walnut-size balls and place 2 inches apart onto prepared cookie sheets. Use a fork dipped in flour to gently flatten cookies.
3. Bake in the preheated oven for 8 to 10 minutes. Allow cookies to cool on the sheets for 5 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.

Share your
favorite recipe and
earn a gift when
it is published.

Mail to:
Custer Public Power District
Attention Tarin Burrows
P.O. Box 10
Broken Bow, NE 68822

Pumpkin Sugar Cookies

Courtesy of The Pioneer Woman @www.thepioneerwoman.com

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 1/4 cups granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
- 1/2 cup pumpkin puree
- 1 large egg
- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- cinnamon to taste (optional)



© Caitlin Bensel

Icing:

- 2 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 2 Tbsp. pumpkin puree
- 1/4 tsp. pumpkin pie spice (may need a little more)
- 2 Tbsp. water
- White sparkling sugar (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

1. For the cookies: In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, pumpkin pie spice, baking soda, and salt. Set aside.
2. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, beat the sugar and butter on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Beat in the pumpkin puree, egg, and vanilla extract until well combined, about 1 minute. Add the flour mixture and beat on low speed just until the dry ingredients are incorporated, about 30 seconds. Cover and chill the dough for at least 2 hours or up to 2 days.
3. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line 2 cookie sheets with parchment paper.
4. Scoop the dough into balls, about 2 tablespoons each, and arrange the dough balls at least 2 inches apart on the prepared baking sheets.
5. Bake until the cookies are puffed and lightly browned around the edges, 11 to 12 minutes. Let the cookies cool on the baking sheets for 3 minutes. (The cookies will collapse slightly as they cool.) Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely, about 30 minutes.
6. **For the icing:** In a medium bowl, whisk the powdered sugar, pumpkin puree, pumpkin pie spice, and water until fully combined. Spoon about 1 teaspoon of the icing on the top of each cookie and spread to cover the top. Sprinkle the cookie with white sparkling sugar, if you like. Let the cookies sit for about 45 minutes, or until the icing has hardened.

Tip: Store cookies in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 3 days. The cookies can be frozen before icing for up to 1 month. Thaw at room temperature for 2 hours before icing.



ENERGY VAMPIRES

DON'T LET THEM DRAIN YOUR WALLET

Many household appliances are using energy even when not in use, including televisions, computers, DVD players, cable boxes with DVR, cell phone chargers, printers, and game consoles. Depending on how many appliances are used, costs can quickly add up to \$100-200 a year.

Learn how you can stop energy vampires at SafeElectricity.org.



They are lurking around your house in unexpected places: the television, the computer and the microwave. Many electronic devices that are plugged in continuously use energy even when you are not using them. These vampires are using up energy and sucking money from your wallet. There are many other household appliances that are constantly using energy in addition to televisions, computers, and microwaves. These include cell phone chargers, printers and game consoles.

Here are a few money-saving tips from Safe Electricity to help put a stop to energy vampires in your home:

- Unplug all electronics that are not in use. Or plug electronics into a power strip and turn the power strip off when items are not in use.
- Avoid electronics with extra features that you do not need as these might use more energy.
- Make sure to check the label of a product before purchasing. Most Energy Star endorsed products draw smaller than average amounts of electricity when turned off.

Power down with a power strip

A power strip can be used to plug in multiple electronic devices, and the power can be cut off from these devices with a simple flip of a switch.

Power strips can be efficiently put to use in a spare room where electronics are not used very often or in an area where there are a large concentration of electronics like in an office.

Similar to power strips, smart strips offer energy efficiency to your home, but are set apart from power strips because of the ways they conserve energy.

According to EnergyStar.gov, there are three main types of smart power strips:

- Timer-equipped power strips are controlled by programmable timers, so all electronics plugged into the strip can be shut off at a designated time.
- Occupancy sensing power strips detect active use of a device and shut down after a specific period of time if unused.
- Current sensing power strips have the ability to cut or add power to a device as it senses when a device is powered off or on.

For more information on energy efficiency, visit SafeElectricity.org.



OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CT.

For after hour emergencies,
call 1-888-749-2453.

The Broken Bow Office & Service Centers
will be closed on Monday,
September 7th to observe
Labor Day & on Wednesday,
November 11th to observe
Veteran's Day.



P.O. Box 10
Broken Bow, NE 68822

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PUBLIC POWER WEEK

October 4-10

POWERING OUR COMMUNITY.

Celebrating Public Power Week!

We take great pride in serving as your public power provider, and we couldn't do it without your support. Public power empowers local communities to make crucial decisions and ensures a steady energy supply.

Thank you for being a customer/owner of
Custer Public Power District!

LOCAL DECISIONS. LOCAL PEOPLE. LOCAL POWER.

New Deadline for 2027 Irrigation Service Requests

Beginning with the 2027 irrigation season, Custer Public Power District will implement a deadline for new irrigation service requests.

Anyone considering a new irrigation service for the 2027 season should submit an inquiry no later than December 30, 2026. Service inquiries received by this deadline will be considered for the 2027 construction schedule, with the goal of completing eligible services prior to June 1, 2027.

Please note that submitting an inquiry by the deadline does not guarantee service for the 2027 irrigation season due to potential unforeseen circumstances, including weather-related delays and material availability. Those requesting a new service must also promptly confirm their service and provide all required documentation to meet CPPD requirements. Confirmed services meeting these requirements will generally be prioritized based on when all necessary information and documentation are received. Actual construction scheduling may vary to allow CPPD to coordinate projects efficiently based on location and other operational considerations.

Service inquiries received after December 30, 2026 will still be accepted; however, they will be scheduled only after all eligible services requested prior to the deadline have been completed. As a result, services requested after the deadline may not be available for use during the 2027 irrigation season.

Additional information regarding this process and service requirements will be provided in the November/December edition of Custer Currents. CPPD will also share reminders and additional information through other communication channels in the coming months to help ensure those considering a new irrigation service are aware of the new deadline. Anyone with questions about the new deadline or considering a new irrigation service for 2027 is also encouraged to contact CPPD's Engineering Department.