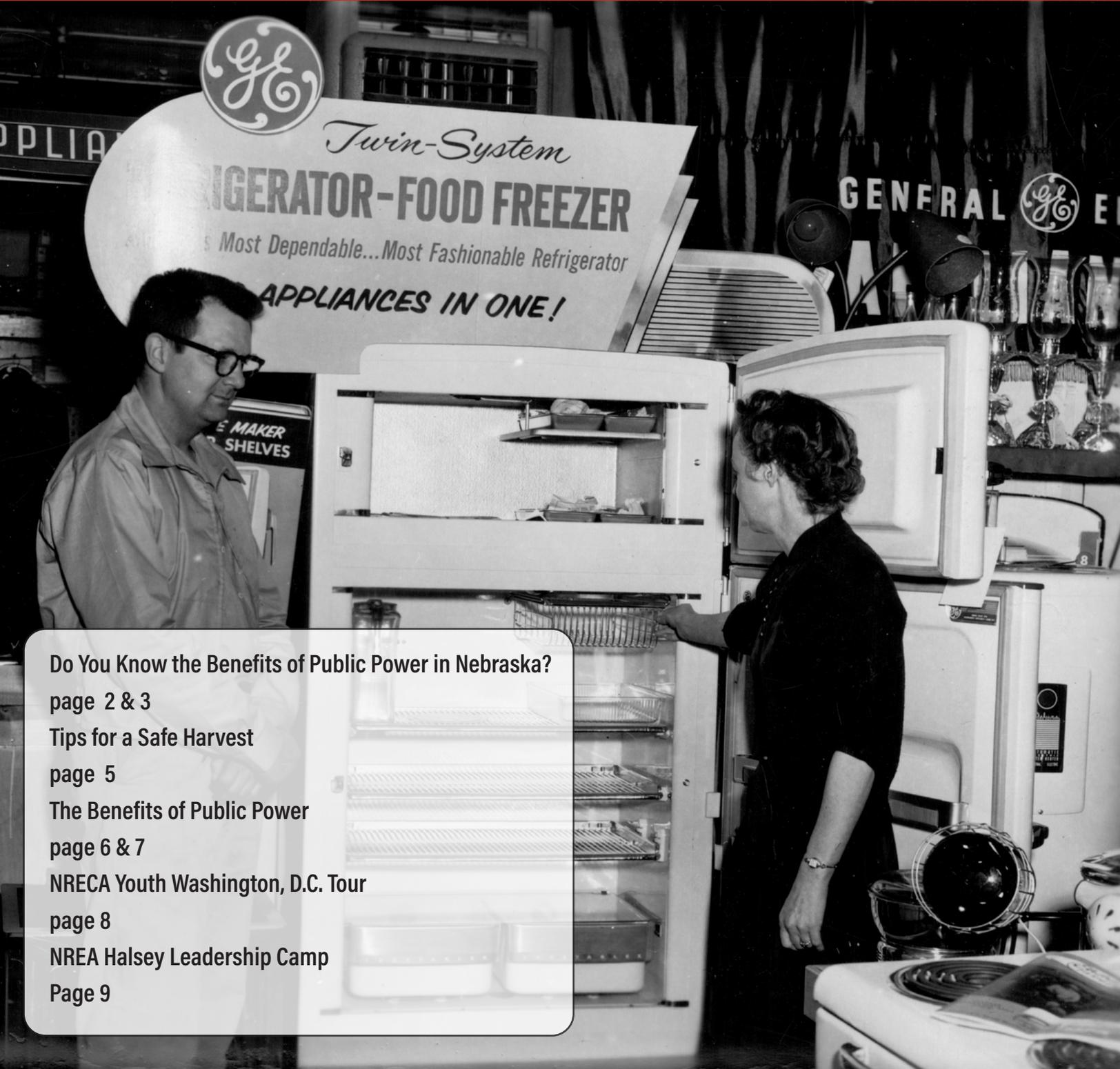


# CUSTER

PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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

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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*

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<b>Jamie Hurlburt</b> <i>Operations Manager</i>	<b>Dustin Miller</b> <i>Purchasing Manager</i>
<b>Alex Coleman</b> <i>Accounting Manager</i>	<b>Jason Chaplin</b> <i>Engineering Manager</i>

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#### Comments or Questions:

**Tarin Burrows**  
*Executive Assistant*

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

### Do You Know the Benefits of Public Power in Nebraska?



served mainly towns and urban areas. The Nebraska Legislature — specifically George Norris — realized that the private companies would not service rural customers because they could not make a profit.

Norris developed state laws that provided the ability to form public power districts and rural electric cooperatives. The state laws gave public power the right of eminent domain to ensure that Nebraska would be a public power state without private electric companies making a profit on electricity, since electricity had become a necessity for modern life.

As General Manager of Custer Public Power District, I know the history of Nebraska public power, and being so close to the subject, I think everyone knows as much as they should about Nebraska's public power advantages and history. It may be familiar history for some readers, and for others it may be new information.

First, "Public Power" are electric utilities owned by the public – you the customer. They operate on a not-for-profit basis as opposed to profit-making utility companies.

In the early days of electricity in Nebraska, private, shareholder-owned, for-profit electric companies

Nebraska became, and still is, the only state in which 100 percent of the customers served, are served by electric utilities owned by them. Not one penny of dividends is tacked onto electric bills and sent to investors.

Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) formed to serve retail operations and to be a wholesale supplier to some rural public power districts and cooperatives. Some rural public power districts and cooperatives are powered directly by a generation and transmission cooperative. The Nebraska Generation and Transmission (NEG&T) cooperative

### 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 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.

then purchases wholesale power from NPPD and passes it through to its members – the public power districts and cooperatives.

Although governed by their own board of directors, these entities work together. Nebraska Public Power District supplies wholesale power to Custer Public Power District. Custer PPD buys it and then distributes it to you-the customer. This concept is the same for other public power districts and cooperatives in Nebraska served by NPPD.

A few public power districts and cooperatives in western Nebraska receive their wholesale power from Tri-State Generation and Transmission Cooperative, much the same way as we do from NPPD. Tri-State is a separate entity owned by the local systems that buy power from it.

Being in this network gives districts and cooperatives a certain measure of our own “energy independence.” When we need to buy power, we are not at the mercy of out-of-state utility holding companies focused on maximizing profits.

This unique distinction of being the only 100% public power state in the Union is why Nebraska ranked 9th in the nation in 2020 for residential customers for having the lowest electric rates.

There’s one thing that I particularly like about all of this - it is a story that proves that in Nebraska, we know how to take care of ourselves, take care of each other, take care of our communities, and take care of business.

It’s a story worth passing on to the next generation. ♦

**Public Power Week  
October 2 - 8, 2022**



# ELECTRICITY FOR CUSTER COUNTY FARMS

---

City and town dwellers for a long time have enjoyed the advantages and conveniences of electricity. Now, thanks to the efforts of the farm people of Custer County, electrical energy is becoming a reality to hundreds of country residents. In the next few years, as the vast program planned by your Custer Public Power District develops, this modern convenience will be within the reach of practically every rural home in the area.

The business people and firms of Broken Bow congratulate the directors and the personnel of the Custer District upon the energizing of the first new lines in this great project.

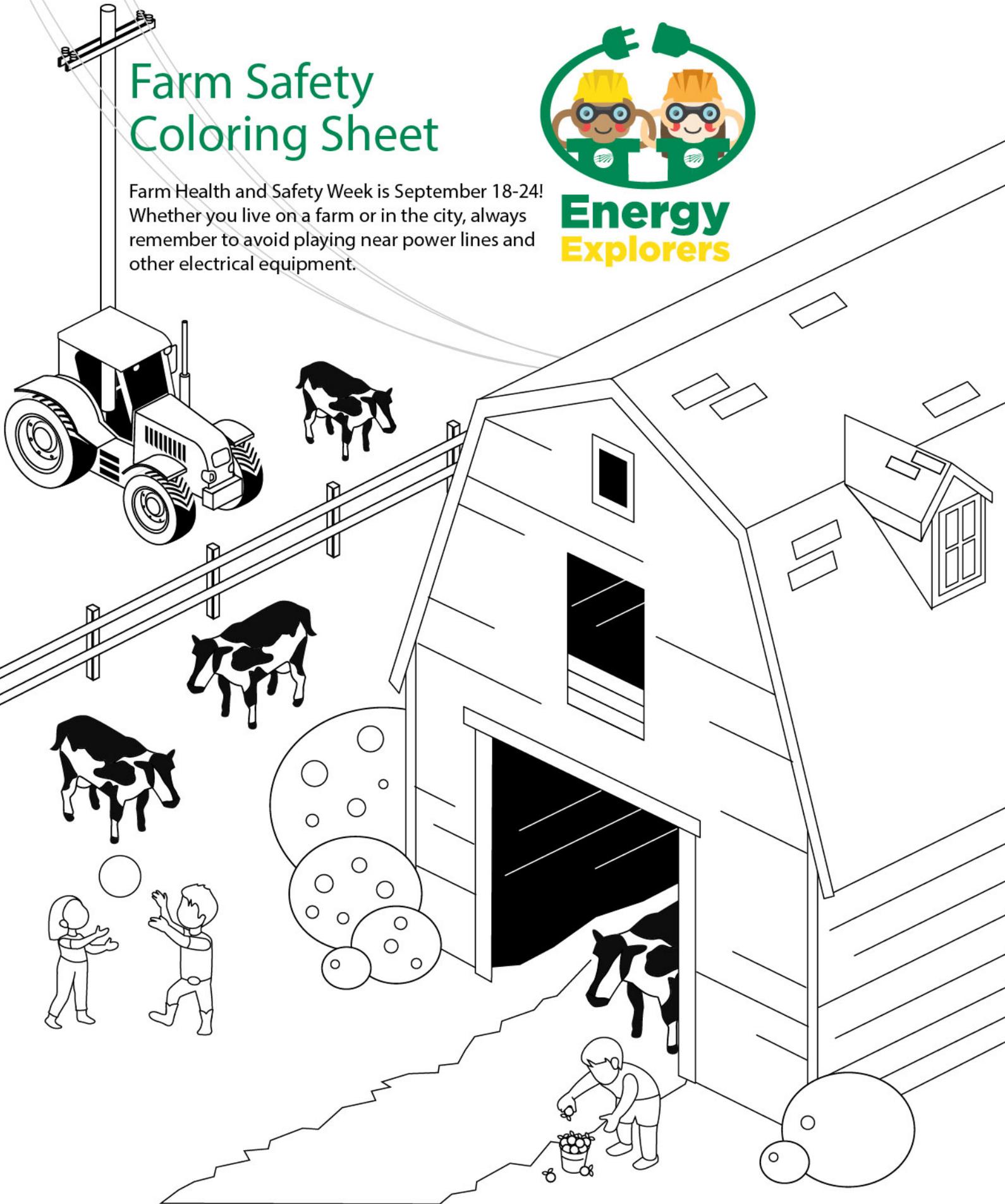
From the Custer County Chief Archives

# Farm Safety Coloring Sheet

Farm Health and Safety Week is September 18-24!  
Whether you live on a farm or in the city, always  
remember to avoid playing near power lines and  
other electrical equipment.



**Energy  
Explorers**





## Tips for a Safe Harvest

By Abby Berry



Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous—even deadly—when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 9-1-1 immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.
- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

September 18-24 is National Farm Health and Safety Week but practicing safety on the farm year-round yields positive results. We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, we hope you'll remember these safety tips.

*Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.*



## Play it safe near grain bins.

**When moving equipment, be aware of power lines and maintain at least a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety. Follow all guidelines set by the National Electrical Safety Code.**

# The Benefits of Pub

#custerpower #publicpower #yourpower

Public Power is not-for-profit. It serves you-the customer/owner and not stockholders.

Public Power creates hometown jobs.

Public Power keeps money in the local communities.

Public Power is part of the community. It invests back into the communities that it serves.

Nebraska's communities, businesses, farms, and ranches are powered by 100% consumer-owned utilities.

Photo credits Dave - Thedford, NE -Adobe Stock

# Public Power

Public Power is owned by you.

Public Power workers are friends, family, and neighbors who care about ensuring safe, reliable, and quality service.

Public Power in Nebraska employs 6,000 people.

Public Power keeps your rates affordable.

Public Power in Nebraska pays more than \$100 million in taxes or in-lieu-of-taxes.

Public Power is locally controlled.  
The Board of Directors are elected by you,  
the customer/owner



*Keeping the "You" in Public Power*



## Nebraska Rural Electric Association Hosts Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

By James Dukesherer - NREA Director of Government Relations

Thursday, June 23, 2022, chaperones from the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA), along with 21 high school students from across Nebraska returned from its annual Youth Tour of our Nation's Capital.

Representing Custer Public Power District Keegan Strohl and Trey Hurlburt

Each year the NREA hosts the Tour providing rural high school students, representing their public power districts and electric cooperatives, the opportunity to see the sites of our Nation's Capital first-hand. While on the Tour, students visited Gettysburg Battlefield, Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, and numerous historical sites and monuments around Washington, D.C.



Participating students also met with members of the Nebraska Congressional delegation and came together with other rural high school students from across America for the annual National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Day where they learned about political engagement, leadership, and the pressing issues facing the electric industry today.

James Dukesherer, Youth Tour Director, stated: "Most of the rural students that we take on the Youth Tour have never been to Washington, D.C. and would not have had an opportunity like this if not for the NREA Youth Tour program and the sponsorship of the participating electric cooperatives and public power districts." "Youth Tour is a unique opportunity for these students to see first-hand our democratic government in action while at the same time visiting some of our Nation's most historic sites."





# Nebraska Rural Electric Association Halsey Leadership Camp

By Wayne Price - NREA Public Affairs Director



Ambassador Candidate Table at the NREA Halsey Leadership Camp Banquet



Custer PPD General Manager Rick Nelson, Sam McMillan, Delaney Rogers, Custer PPD Director Wayne Licking, & Haley Franzen

The 2022 NREA Youth Energy Leadership Camp was held July 18 to 22 at the 4-H Camp in the Nebraska National Forest at Halsey, Nebraska. There were 46 campers from 22 public power districts with eight counselors and five junior counselors. Public power districts that provided counselors were Cornhusker PPD, KBR RPPD, Loup Valleys RPPD, Niobrara Valley EMC, Norris PPD, Perennial PPD, and South Central PPD.

Through interesting workshops, fascinating demonstrations and presentations by regional experts addressing the many issues affecting the rural electric program, campers depart after five days far more knowledgeable than when they arrived. A tour to the Gerald Gentleman Power Station and the Kingsley Hydro-Electric Power Plant provided a first-hand look at the process of generating electricity.

It was another great camp, with hot temperatures this year and plenty of water in the Middle Loup River for canoeing. Presentations during camp were provided by Custer PPD, NREA, Central Irrigation and Public Power District and NPPD. Midwest PPD also helped by providing a bucket truck for the group photo.

A special thanks to Custer PPD Director Wayne Licking and his wife, Terri, and Custer PPD General Manager Rick Nelson for attending the camp banquet on Thursday evening.

The 2022 Ambassadors were Delaney Rogers of Dunning, Neb. (Custer PPD), James Doyle of Osmond, Neb. (Northeast Power), and Alexa Tollman of Crawford, Neb. (Northwest RPPD). The 2022 Good Eggs were Lenora Kester of Clearwater, Neb. (Elkhorn PPD) and Braden Bruha of Ord, Neb. (Loup Valleys RPPD).



Ambassadors: Delaney Rogers, James Doyle, & Alexa Tollman

# RECIPES

## Snickerdoodle Coffee Cake

*Courtesy of Jo Ann Baum's Kitchen*

### INGREDIENTS:

3/4 cup sugar  
1/4 cup butter  
1 egg  
1/2 cup milk  
1 1/2 cup flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt

### TOPPING:

1/2 cup packed brown sugar  
2 Tablespoons flour  
2 teaspoons cinnamon  
2 Tablespoons melted butter  
1/2 cup chopped nut (optional)



### DIRECTIONS:

1. Cream sugar and butter, then add the next 5 ingredients. Mix it all really well, then pour 1/2 of the batter into a greased 8x8 pan.
2. Mix the topping and sprinkle 1/2 of the topping on the first half of the batter poured into the pan. Put the rest of the batter on top and sprinkle remaining topping on top. Bake at 375\* for 23-30 minutes.

## Brunch Beef Strata

*Courtesy of beefitswhatsfordinner.com*

### INGREDIENTS:

1 1/2 pounds Ground Beef	2 cups milk
1 teaspoon salt, divided	5 large eggs
1/2 teaspoon pepper, divided	Nonstick cooking spray
1 tablespoon olive oil	8 cups crustless bread cubes (3/4-inch)
4 ounces button mushrooms, sliced	2 cups shredded Asiago or fontina cheese
1 cup chopped onion	1 cup cherry or grape tomatoes, cut in half
1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves	Thinly sliced fresh basil



### DIRECTIONS:

1. Heat large nonstick skillet over medium heat until hot. Add Ground Beef; cook 8 to 10 minutes, breaking into 3/4-inch crumbles and stirring occasionally. Remove from skillet with slotted spoon; season with 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Set aside. Pour off drippings from skillet.

*Cook's Tip: Cooking times are for fresh or thoroughly thawed Ground Beef. Ground Beef should be cooked to an internal temperature of 160°F. Color is not a reliable indicator of Ground Beef doneness.*

2. Heat oil in same skillet over medium heat until hot. Add mushrooms and onion; cook 3 to 4 minutes or until vegetables are tender, stirring frequently. Return beef to skillet. Add thyme; cook 3 to 5 minutes or until heated through, stirring frequently. Remove from heat. Set aside.

3. Whisk milk, eggs, remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper in large bowl until blended.

4. Spray 2-1/2 to 3-quart shallow baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Layer half of the bread cubes, 1/2 cup of the cheese and half of the beef mixture in dish. Pour half of the egg mixture over the top. Top with remaining bread cubes, 1/2 cup of the cheese and remaining beef and egg mixtures. Sprinkle with remaining 1 cup cheese. Press any dry bread cubes into egg mixture. Cover with aluminum foil; refrigerate 6 hours or as long as overnight.

*Cook's Tip: To bake strata immediately, heat oven to 350°F. Assemble strata in dish as directed. Bake, covered, 40 minutes. Uncover; bake 10 to 15 minutes or until lightly browned.*

5. Preheat oven to 350°F. Bake strata, covered, 55 minutes. Remove foil. Bake, uncovered, 10 to 15 minutes or until puffed and lightly browned. Let stand 5 minutes. Top with tomatoes and basil, as desired.

## Brunswick Stew

*Courtesy of SmallTownWoman.com Blog by Beth Pierce*

### INGREDIENTS:

1 1/2 tablespoons canola oil  
1 large onion finely chopped  
2 cloves garlic minced  
2 1/4 cup low sodium chicken broth  
2 tablespoons tomato paste  
1 can (14.5 ounce) fire roasted diced tomatoes  
1 1/2 cups frozen corn  
1 1/2 cups frozen lima beans  
3/4 cup barbecue sauce

*2 tablespoons brown sugar  
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce  
1 1/2 teaspoons hot sauce  
1/4 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper  
1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper  
1 to 2 pinches of cayenne pepper*

2 1/2 cups pulled smoked pork  
1 1/2 cups cooked diced chicken (smoked or roasted)

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Heat oil over medium heat in a dutch oven or heavy stock pot. Add the onion and cook until tender; 5-6 minutes. Reduce heat and add the minced garlic cooking for 1 minute while stirring constantly.
2. In a small bowl stir the tomato paste with 1/4 cup of chicken broth then pour it into the pot. Add the remaining chicken broth, diced tomatoes, frozen corn, lima beans, barbecue sauce, brown sugar, Worcestershire sauce, hot sauce, ground black pepper, crushed red pepper, cayenne pepper to the pot over medium high heat. Bring to a low boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes.
3. Add the smoked pork and chicken and let it simmer for about 5 more minutes. If desired season the stew with salt and more pepper to taste. Spoon into bowls and drizzle with just a little bit more barbecue sauce.

### NOTES:

This is my go to recipe for leftover smoked pork and roasted chicken. You can use all of one or the other but I think it tastes better with both. You can also use different percentages of each. It can be made with brisket, too. Other vegetables you might add include potatoes, butter beans, celery, and okra.

Store leftovers in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 3 days.

### TIP:

***After adding the barbecue sauce, season to taste with the brown sugar, worcestershire sauce, hot sauce, and spices. A sweet based barbecue sauce may not need the brown sugar. A spicy barbecue sauce may not need the hot sauce and all of the spices.***



**Share your favorite recipe and receive a free gift when we use your recipe.**

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

# OFFICE HOURS

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

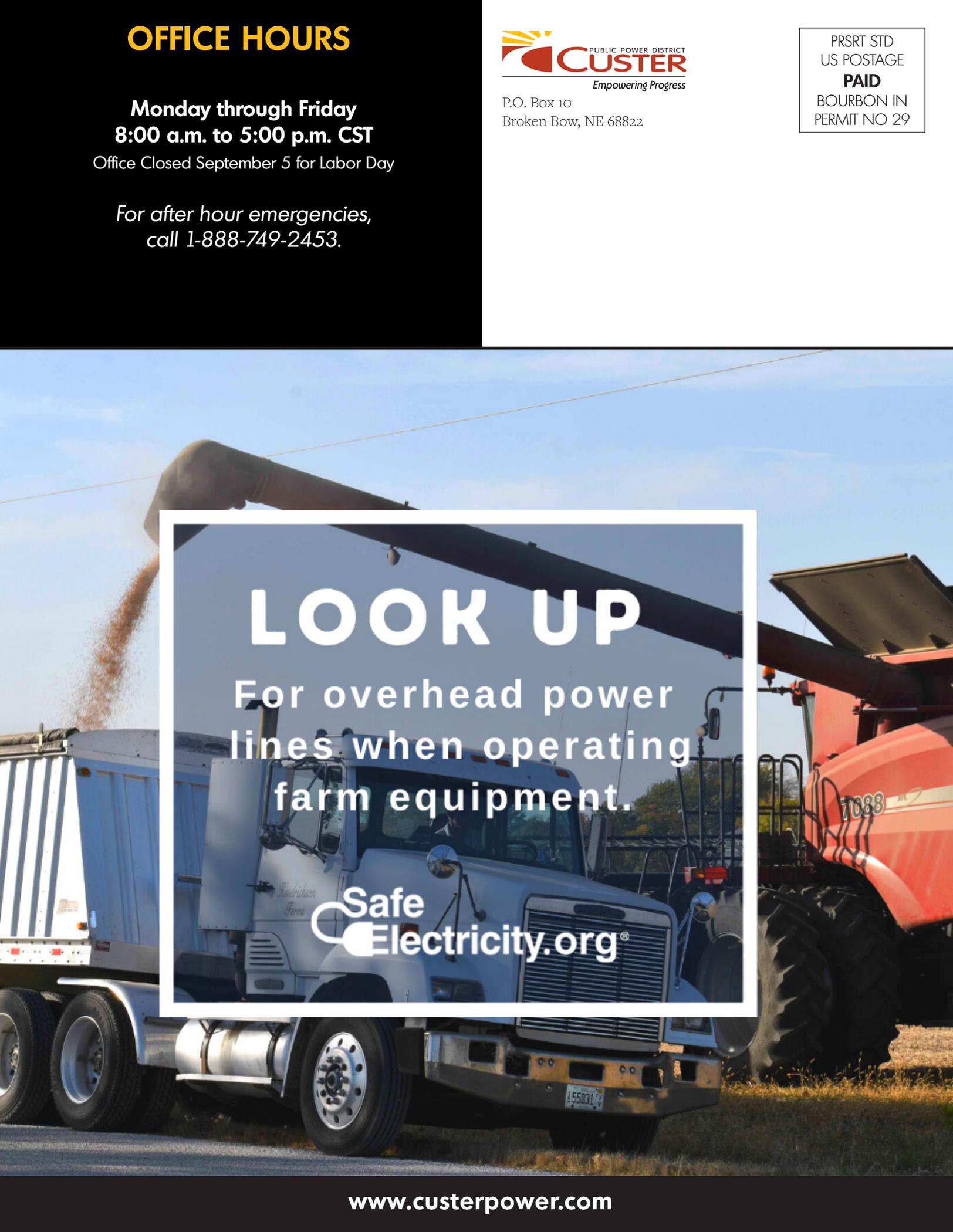
Office Closed September 5 for Labor Day

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



P.O. Box 10  
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A photograph of a white dump truck with a conveyor belt system. The conveyor belt is extended and is pouring a stream of reddish-brown material into the hopper of a red combine harvester. The scene is set outdoors under a clear blue sky. The truck has "Hendrickson Force" written on the side of the cab. The harvester has the number "7088" on its side.

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