

P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124  
620-672-5538 • 800-828-5538  
www.ninnescah.com



NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# Watts Ahead

## Ninnescah Rural Electric Co-op, Inc.

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### In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, please call 800-828-5538. The office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday–Friday. After hours, calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to our on-call personnel.

## Stay Back and Stay Safe

Working with electricity can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. USA Today lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. That's why safety is the No. 1 priority at Ninnescah Electric. This is not empty talk. We have created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above all else.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, our consumer-members. Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you, but equally important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance—and your help!

### Distractions can be deadly.

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes full attention for linemen and their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team's safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small

accommodations help protect our crews and you.

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

We recognize for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You will recognize Ninnescah Rural Electric Co-op employees by our logo on their uniform and the service trucks with our name and logo on them. You may also recognize our lineworkers because they live right here in our local community. If you are ever unsure a worker is authorized to be handling electrical equipment on or near your property, please call us. We are happy to let you know if our crews are working in your community.

### Slow down and move over.

In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over and slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. This is an extra barrier of safety to help those who help all of us.

## Summer Rates Begin This Month

We would like to remind you that Ninnescah's summer rates will be reflected on your July bill. The summer rates will remain in effect through your October bill. We are listing below the rates for electric service.

| Summer Rates                    |                           | Cost             |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Single Phase                    | Customer Charge           | \$27.50          |
|                                 | Summer Energy Charge      | \$0.1406 per kWh |
|                                 | Energy Cost Adjustment    | varies monthly   |
| Three Phase                     | Customer Charge           | \$37.50          |
|                                 | Summer Energy Charge      | \$0.1406 per kWh |
|                                 | Energy Cost Adjustment    | varies monthly   |
| Irrigation No Control           | Customer Charge           | \$25.00          |
|                                 | Annual Horsepower Charge* | \$42.50 per HP   |
|                                 | Summer Energy Charge      | \$0.1231 per kWh |
|                                 | Energy Cost Adjustment    | varies monthly   |
| Irrigation Direct Co-op Control | Customer Charge           | \$25.00          |
|                                 | Annual Horsepower Charge* | \$37.50 per HP   |
|                                 | Summer Energy Charge      | \$0.0881 per kWh |
|                                 | Energy Cost Adjustment    | varies monthly   |

\*Billed in five equal installments on April-August bills

## Welcome New Members

**Venture Corporation – Great Bend**

**Brandon Hazel – Anthony**

**Preisser Inc. – Cunningham**

**Yust Farms LLC – Overland Park**

**Jeremy L &/or Mindy Burr – Kinsley**

**Albert Haas – Fairhope, AL**

**Accel Construction LLC – Wichita**

## Offices Closed on 4th of July



In observance  
of Independence Day,  
our offices will be closed  
on Thursday, July 4.

## Pick 'Em & Eat 'Em



Imagine it. Walking through rows and rows of trees and bushes, smelling the freshly ripened fruit, picking just the right one for the perfect bite of summer, or maybe picking a few for the flawless sweet ending to a warm summer evening. Throughout Kansas you can gather that experience from you-pick farms and orchards.

While many fruits cease to grow in the extra warm conditions of a Kansas July, some fruits thrive on the summer sun. Around this time of year, many you-pick orchards host the end of blueberries and blackberries and await the growth of peaches in early August and apples as fall draws near.

Wheatland Electric Cooperative members Leslie and Joel Gerber own and operate Sweet Berries and Brambles in Harper, along with their four children ages nine and under. Teachers by trade, the two grow 8,000 strawberry plants each year and have begun blackberry and blueberry patches that are not quite ready for picking.

"We love the opportunity to bring people to the country that don't know where their food comes from or just need that change of pace," Leslie said. "We don't have activities out here—we just have sunshine and strawberries.

We emphasize coming out and being outside. That's our favorite part, letting people come to our home and fellowshipping with them while they have a good time picking strawberries."

Joel grew up in a farming family, developing a knack for the outdoors so when the couple moved onto a 5-acre lot, they began researching what they could do with their extra land. Destiny fell into their lap when a wholesale strawberry magazine was delivered to their door. The couple hasn't looked back since.

"People need a peaceful atmosphere and a peaceful thing to do," Leslie said. "We really embrace that. We want to be here to give people something different to do. We just really value the time that people come and spend with us and their kids even."

Orchards across the state welcome visitors to experience their operations for fun and education. Kids and adults alike can learn about the process of growing fruit and where their meals come from. For more information on orchards and you-pick farms located near you, visit **[WWW.PICKYOUROWN.ORG/KS.HTM](http://WWW.PICKYOUROWN.ORG/KS.HTM)**, but be sure to do your research beforehand as many farms have special rules or ask you reserve your picking time.

## Converting a ‘Dumb’ Home to a Smart One: Is it Worth it?

Depending on your age, your techie factor or perhaps your interests, you may or may not be excited at the prospect of installing smart devices in your home. Becoming more and more a part of our vocabulary, having a “smart home” or even a semi-smart one can help make the many tasks we do each day less time consuming and more fun.

So what, exactly, are smart homes? They are houses that boast a number of interconnected devices and home appliances that perform certain actions or functions. Smart-home performance is often more efficient than the owner-operated kind, which could save money. Other high-tech, smarty-pants devices won’t save much on your utility bills but can increase your home’s cool factor.

Smart home automation allows you to program a variety of items ranging from a smart thermostat, lights, window blinds and even an automatic pet-feeding bowl (now if only smart automation could do dishes and make lunch).

If all your devices are interconnected, you can orchestrate them from one place on your tablet or cell phone. And if you have voice-assisted technology,

you can just use your words, and presto!—the coffee maker starts or your lights turn on or off.

In many upper-end markets, buyers can consider a new home that is already smart, but for the majority of homeowners it can cost in the thousands to upgrade an entire home with multiple smart devices. If your house has not yet arrived on the smart scene, there are ways to increase your home’s smart technology.

Examples include smart thermostats, gizmos that track energy use such as individual smart plugs or whole-house monitoring trackers to improve your energy “fitness”, and smart lighting that includes motion sensors and phone app controls.

Smart appliances and devices can save money because in many cases they allow you to use less energy. They’re also convenient, fun to use and can give you peace of mind. In short, some may be worth it in the long run.

And a new home that’s certified smart or even super intelligent? We can all dream, can’t we?

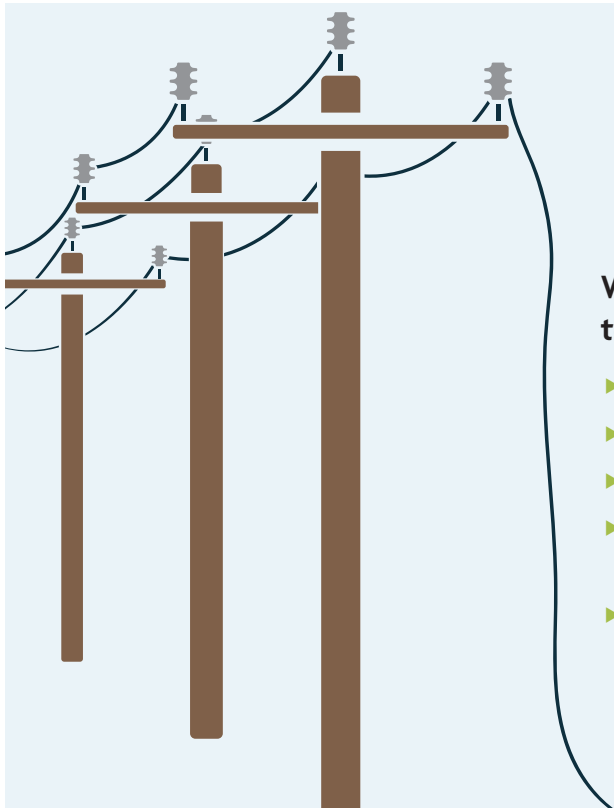
For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SEE A DOWNED POWER LINE

**When power lines go down, take these precautions to stay safe:**

- ▶ Call 911 to report fallen or downed power lines.
- ▶ Know that power lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.
- ▶ Stay at least 10 feet away from the line.
- ▶ If the line is down because a vehicle has struck it, remain in the vehicle until emergency crews say it is safe to exit.
- ▶ If there is a fire or you smell gasoline, hop out without touching the vehicle—DO NOT WALK, but hop to safety at least 50 feet away.

**Always treat a downed power line as live  
and never touch any wire that is down.**





# Recipes

from Our  
Members' Kitchens

We hope you are enjoying the recipes from your neighbors. Recipes are still needed to continue this monthly feature.

## Creamy Grape Salad

- ▶ 3 ½ cups green grapes
- ▶ 3 ½ cups red or black grapes
- ▶ 1 8-ounce pkg. cream cheese
- ▶ 1 cup sour cream
- ▶ ½ cup sugar
- ▶ 3 Tbs. brown sugar
- ▶ 2 tsp. vanilla
- ▶ 1 cup pecans, chopped (optional)

Wash and dry grapes. Remove stems. Mix other ingredients until smooth. Stir in grapes. Cover and refrigerate. When ready to serve, top with nuts if desired.

*Marilyn Foster, Pratt*

## Breakfast Casserole

- ▶ 1 package crescent rolls
- ▶ 1 lb. cooked and drained sausage
- ▶ 1 box/bag shredded hash browns
- ▶ 1 cup shredded sharp cheese

Layer the above in a 9 x 13-inch baking pan in the order they appear. Beat 8 eggs with ¼ cup milk, ¼ tsp. salt and ¼ tsp. pepper. Pour over the above layers. Bake in preheated oven at 375 F for 30-35 minutes.

*Brenda Head, Byers*

## Baby Back Ribs

- ▶ 1 rack baby back ribs
- ▶ Your favorite rub or barbecue sauce

Remove the inner lining as this causes the rub not to penetrate and the ribs to be tough. Cover ribs with your favorite rub or barbecue sauce. Wrap tightly in foil. Refrigerate 6-8 hours or overnight. Bake at 250 F approximately 4 hours.

*Marilyn Foster, Pratt*

## 'Tom Thumbs' Cookie Bars

- ▶ ½ cup butter, softened (not melted)
- ▶ ¼ cup powdered sugar
- ▶ 1 cup flour
- ▶ 2 eggs
- ▶ 1 cup flaked coconut
- ▶ 1 ½ cups brown sugar
- ▶ 2 Tbs. flour
- ▶ ½ tsp. baking powder
- ▶ 1 cup chopped pecans

Cream together butter and powdered sugar. Add 1 cup flour. Spread on bottom of large pan (I use a 12 x 7-inch pan). Beat 2 eggs well. Add brown sugar, 2 Tbs. flour, baking powder, pecans and coconut. Spread evenly over the first mixture. Bake 30 minutes at 325 F. Cut while still warm. It has a brownish top crust and a gooey center.

*Janis Moore, Iuka*

## Want to share your recipe?

We hope you enjoy these recipes.

In order to continue this page,

**PLEASE** submit your favorite recipes.

**In your submission, include the following:**

- ▶ Your name and contact information;
- ▶ Ninnescah account number; and
- ▶ the recipe (clearly printed or typed).

**Email your entry to:**

[naschenbrenner@ninnescanrural.com](mailto:naschenbrenner@ninnescanrural.com) or mail to  
Ninnescah Rural Electric Attn: Recipes  
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