

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.

## Ninnescah Joins Solar Project

Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative is taking advantage of a unique opportunity by joining with 11 other Kansas cooperatives on a solar project that will provide financial benefits for years to come.

This opportunity began when the wholesale power contract between participating co-ops and our power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), allowed us to obtain a portion of our power supply from renewable energy sources.

To take advantage of this opportunity and maximize cost savings, Ninnescah joined with 11 other Kansas electric cooperatives to partner with Today's Power Inc. (TPI), a proven solar energy provider and a subsidiary of Arkansas Electric Cooperative. TPI will construct, operate, maintain, and retain ownership of the 1-megawatt solar arrays. Ninnescah will provide 10-acre sites and the connection between the solar array and Ninnescah's electric distribution system.

Ninnescah will have two solar sites. The first will be in Pratt County close to our BP substation

and the second will be located south of Greensburg close to the Greensburg substation. Each farm will contain approximately 4,000 solar panels.

We are taking advantage of this unique opportunity while practicing the sixth cooperative principle — cooperation among cooperatives. Through a purchase power agreement, Ninnescah will purchase all the energy produced by the solar farms for a 25-year term, with two additional five-year options. The rate for this energy is attractive due, in part, to TPI's leveraging of solar tax incentives and to the economies of scale gained by the collaboration of the 12 cooperatives.

While the rate per kilowatt-hour (kWh) is attractive, the reduction in peak demand provides the biggest opportunity for cost savings.



Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative will soon have two operating 1 MW solar farms.

ERIC FREEL ON TAP MEDIA

## Think Safety When Operating a Generator

### Thinking safety can save your life

A generator can be a valuable piece of equipment to keep appliances working during a power outage. Generators can be either temporarily or permanently installed.

A permanent generator is wired into a house by a qualified electrician using a transfer switch that prevents a generator from feeding electricity back into overhead lines, which can be deadly for linemen.

A temporary generator is powered by gasoline and should not be attached to a circuit breaker, fuse, or outlet. Before purchasing a generator you need to know the wattage required to run the appliances you will attach to the generator. You also need to know the surge power, which is the power it takes to turn on an appliance.

Once you have purchased the proper generator, follow these tips from Safe Electricity to properly operate your generator:

- ▶ There should be nothing plugged into the generator when you turn it on. This prevents a surge from damaging your generator and appliances.
- ▶ Be sure to keep children and pets away from the generator, which could burn them.
- ▶ Shut down the generator properly. Before shutting down a generator, turn off and unplug all appliances and equipment being powered by the generator.
- ▶ Remember maintenance between uses. It is also a good idea to inspect the fuel and oil filters, spark plug, oil level and fuel quality and to start the generator on a regular basis before an emergency occurs.
- ▶ Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions to properly ground the generator. Be sure you understand them before connecting the generator.
- ▶ Never operate a generator in a confined area, such as a garage or shed. Generators can produce numerous gases, including toxic and deadly carbon monoxide. They require proper ventilation.
- ▶ Generators pose electrical risks, especially when operated in wet conditions. Use a generator only as necessary when the weather creates wet or moist conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it. Always ensure that your hands are dry before touching the generator.
- ▶ When you refuel the generator, make sure the engine is cool to prevent a fire, should the tank overflow.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

### Tip of the Month

Energy used for cooling and heating your home makes up the largest portion of your monthly energy bills. By combining regular equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30% on your energy bills while helping our environment.

SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV



### USING A GENERATOR? 8 DANGEROUS MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE

**1 IN ENCLOSED SPACES**  
Always use a generator in a well-ventilated area.

**2 NEAR WINDOWS OR DOORS**  
Place it at least 20 feet away from windows and doors.

**3 IN A GARAGE**  
Even if the door is up, never use a generator in a garage.

**4 IN THE ELEMENTS**  
Run on a dry surface under a canopy-like structure (but not in a carport).

**5 PLUGGED INTO A WALL OUTLET**  
This can be deadly to you, family members, neighbors and utility workers.

**6 WITH THE WRONG EXTENSION CORD**  
Use a properly rated cord to plug appliances into a generator.

**7 WITHOUT CO TESTERS**  
Carbon Monoxide detectors should be on every level of your home and tested monthly.

**8 IN DISREPAIR**  
Make sure your generator is well-maintained and in good working order.

**LEARN MORE FROM YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC CO-OP**



# Tips for a Safe Harvest

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 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 deploy 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, call 911 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.



Fall harvest is approaching throughout Kansas and we want to help ensure your safety around electrical lines.

Sept. 19-25 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, follow these safety tips.

## Welcome New Members

Branch Towers III LLC – *Chagrin Falls, OH*

Moon Ranch LLC – *Wichita*

Timothy J Thielen – *Golden City, MO*

Mark Clodfelter – *Greensburg*

Buds Farm LLC – *Isabel*

Carson C Cobb – *Greensburg*

Karlea Harris – *Greensburg*

Noyes/Thomas LLC – *Andover*

Kruger Farms KS LLC – *Pratt*

Tim Nace – *Greensburg*

## Respect Electricity; Prepare for Electrical Emergencies

Kansas electric cooperatives and the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Kansas are co-sponsoring a high-voltage line safety demonstration as part of Kansas' Largest Classroom at the Kansas State Fair.

Kids and adults will learn the importance of respecting electricity and being prepared for electrical emergencies.

Join us for a 30-minute safety demonstration repeated between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the Ad Astra Pavilion.

Can't make it to the fair?  
Contact us for a local safety demonstration.



AD ASTRA PAVILION | 2000 N. POPLAR ST., HUTCHINSON, KS 67502

## FARM SAFETY COLORING SHEET

Farm Health and Safety Week is Sept. 19-25!

Whether you live on a farm or in the city, always remember to avoid playing near power lines and other electrical equipment.

