

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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Robert Lamatsch
Manager of Operations

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.

PLEASE JOIN US

ANNUAL MEETING

84th
ANNUAL

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

at the Pratt Municipal Building

- ▶ Registration at 5 p.m.
- ▶ Dinner at 6 p.m.
- ▶ Meeting to follow

Don't Miss This Year's Events!

- ▶ Announcement of Trustees and Scholarship winners
- ▶ Co-op reports
- ▶ Door prizes

Ballot Mailing

Your ballot will be mailed with your annual meeting information. Please mail them back or drop them by our office.

Join us
for a **FREE**
dinner!





SPRING INTO SAFETY

Spring is in the air and that means more than just a change of season for farmers. During the busy planting season, follow these eight safety tips.



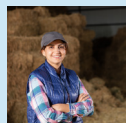
Transport Safely

Ensure equipment is compliant with agriculture road and travel safety rules.



Share Safety Tips

Teach anyone working or doing business on your farm about electrical hazards.



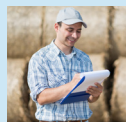
Encourage Young Workers

Be sure to match age and ability level with each chore.



Be Clear

Explain where the "back 80" or Smith Field is; not everyone may know how to get there.



Write It Down

Keep directions (with proper road and farm ground names) at home, in the shop and in cabs.



Look Around

Inspect your space and look for hazards before you start planting.



Evaluate Procedures

Consider new safety precautions you can implement, such as lock out, tag out.



Meet and Discuss

Conduct morning safety meetings to brief everyone on the day and talk about potential hazards.

Reap What You Sow: Stay Safe During Planting Season

Long hours and fatigue are a constant battle for farmers during planting season. If you farm, remember to take care of yourself by getting as much rest as possible and allowing yourself breaks to clear your head.

Be especially aware of electrical hazards around the farm. Be cautious and think twice before acting around electricity. Safe Electricity offers farmers the following reminders:

- ▶ If your machinery or vehicle comes in contact with a power line, do not get out. Once contact has been made with a live line (even when your tractor or truck makes contact), you are now a "pathway to ground" and you could get electrocuted if you step out. Instead, stay where you are and call 911 to dispatch the appropriate utility to de-energize the power.
- ▶ If you come across an accident or incident near a downed power line, alert individuals (from a distance) to stay in the tractor or vehicle as long as there is no imminent danger. Do not approach the scene.
- ▶ When using machinery with long extensions or tall antennas and when using ladders, look up to avoid contact with overhead power lines.
- ▶ Even if there is no contact, an electrical current can jump or arc so keep equipment at least 10 feet from surrounding power lines at all times. (OSHA recommends a distance of 20 feet.)
- ▶ Remember, non-metallic materials (such as tree limbs, ropes and hay) can conduct electricity, depending on dampness and dust/dirt accumulation.
- ▶ Visually inspect overhead lines, which may not meet current height codes due to age or pole damage. If a wire is hanging low or is on the ground, consider it energized and stay at least 50 feet away; call 911 to have the operator dispatch the utility.
- ▶ Every day, map out where equipment will be moved to ensure it will clear power lines.
- ▶ When working in the vicinity of power lines, always use a spotter who has a broad vantage point.
- ▶ Train anyone working with or for you (including seasonal employees) to be aware of power line locations and teach them proper clearance distance. Also design and implement a safety training program that includes a review of electrical hazards and how to safely deal with power lines.
- ▶ According to American Family Insurance, "know your PTO." To stay safe when working with a power take off (PTO), always disengage the PTO, turn off the engine and remove keys before getting off the tractor. Also, never step across a rotating power shaft.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest.

A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can greatly impact the efficiency of your system.



Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee of Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative met on Friday, Feb. 4, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. at the cooperative office on N.E. 20th Street, Pratt, Kansas.

The following members of the nominating committee were present: Terah Lambert, Ken W. Lewton, Jon M. McClure, Steve Moore and Morgan J. Trinkle this being all the members of the nominating committee, with the exceptions of Jay Derley, Jack Deviney, Marvin Jantz and Wilbur K. Wood who were unable to attend.

Lewton was selected as the chairman of the Nominating Committee, McClure was selected as secretary and Trinkle was selected as inspector of elections.

Danny Lynch of Johnston, Eisenhower,

Eisenhower & Lynch, general counsel for the cooperative, reviewed with the Nominating Committee the qualifications and eligibility requirements for election as a trustee as set forth in the bylaws of the cooperative. Based upon the information available and the bylaws of the cooperative, the Nominating Committee determined if each potential nominee was eligible for election.

The following individuals were nominated to serve three-year terms on the



Glen Honeman



Ruth Teichman



Paul Unruh

Ninnescah board of trustees: **GLEN HONEMAN**, Iuka; **RUTH TEICHMAN**, Stafford and **PAUL UNRUH**, Greensburg. An election to select three trustees from these nominees will be held by mail in ballot and the results will be announced at the Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov

Property Taxes for 2021

The Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. paid a total of \$639,855.24 in ad valorem property taxes in 2021.

Through payment of property taxes, rural electric cooperatives share the cost of the state's educational system, highways and city and county facilities such as roads, libraries, parks and hospitals.

Paying our share of taxes is one of the many ways Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative and nearly 1,000 other rural electric cooperatives — now serving more than 26 million people throughout the United States — help build a stronger, more prosperous America. In addition to the ad valorem property taxes, we pay approximately the same amount in other taxes.

Ninnescah Rural Electric provides electricity to 4,321 services.

County	Tax Paid
Barber	\$ 48,125.50
Comanche	\$ 956.46
Edwards	\$ 75,410.38
Harper	\$ 22,924.44
Kingman	\$ 34,922.66
Kiowa	\$ 84,306.68
Pawnee	\$ 1,735.04
Pratt	\$ 282,162.20
Reno	\$ 14,306.16
Stafford	\$ 75,005.72
Totals	\$ 639,855.24

Welcome New Members

Simon C &/or Emma J Miller – *Belpre*

Riley Thom – *Medicine Lodge*

Christopher A &/or Susan S Smith – *Mobile, AL*

Esther Williams Heirs LLC – *Parker, CO*

Brandy L Nulik – *Spivey*

James V Doran – *St. John*

Carl Chinn – *Coats*

Western Flight Farms LLC – *St. Francis, MN*

GJL Farms LLC – *Waucoma, IA*

Stuart Symmonds – *Emporia*



HAPPY
St. Patrick's Day



Using the Clock to Save Energy

Did you know the time of day you use energy can impact electricity rates? Think of times of high energy demand like rush hour traffic. These are times when a lot of people in our community are using electricity — whether getting ready for work, which involves showering and making breakfast, or coming home in the evening to cook dinner, wash clothes, bath the kids or wash dishes. During these times of high energy use, your electric cooperative strives to ensure there is enough electricity available to meet the needs of all consumer-members. This often results in buying energy at higher costs (because of higher overall demand) as well as ensuring that grid infrastructure can deliver enough electricity when use is highest. This is especially true when extreme winter or summer weather pushes energy use even higher.

There are several ways consumers can help lower energy demand by thoughtfully timing energy-intensive activities at home. Peak energy hours are typically in the morning and in the evening after people return from work and school. Weekends and holidays are typically considered off-peak.

Here are few simple ways you can beat the energy peak:

- ▶ **ADJUST THE THERMOSTAT.** Move the temperature up to 78 degrees in summer and down to 68 degrees in winter. Bump it further up or down when you're away from home for extended periods of time.
- ▶ **POSTPONE THE USE OF MAJOR APPLIANCES.** Move laundry loads to later in the evening or weekends. Delay running the dishwasher until well after dinner or use the delay cycle function if your dishwasher has one.
- ▶ **YOUR WATER HEATER USES A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF ENERGY.** You can reduce its energy burden by moving showering and bathing to an off-peak



time or lowering the temperature on the tank. Some models include the ability to place the water heater on a timer to turn it off during hours it won't be in use.

- ▶ **DURING SUMMER, CONSIDER GRILLING OUTDOORS** to keep the oven off during peak heat days.
- ▶ **UNPLUG CHARGING CABLES AND SMALL APPLIANCES WHEN THEY'RE NOT IN USE.** For bigger items like TVs, try plugging them into a power strip that can be flipped on and off.
- ▶ **IF YOU HAVE AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE,** charge it at night when electricity rates are typically lowest.

Check with your local electric co-op to see if they offer rates that are directly related to peak energy times and seasonality through special opt-in programs. These programs can include notification of peak hours, either through text or email. Even without these programs, lowering your energy use during peak times allows your co-op to save money on peak demand fuel costs, ultimately



saving consumer-members money by keeping rates lower.

Timing energy use to avoid “rush hour” is a great way to keep costs down and practice better efficiency habits. Check with your electric co-op for more information on time-of-use rates and programs.