



Freeborn
Mower
Electric
Cooperative

People. Power. Possibilities.

county lines

NEWSLETTER

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SAFETY IS JOB #1

Attention to safety is always a priority at FMEC, as evidenced by frequent employee trainings and daily tailgate procedural reviews held by our outdoor crews.

In late June, our employees participated in fire extinguisher training. Learning and practicing how to properly use fire extinguishers can reduce panic and save precious time during a fire emergency.

When working with energized power lines, our workers must have faith and trust in their fellow employees to be able to react quickly. After all, their lives are literally on the line. Lineworkers must be able to rescue their fellow employees in any emergency situation. #2107205 In case of accidental contact with an energized power line, a lineworker must be able to perform a pole-top rescue and deliver appropriate first aid. Our crews were trained and tested on these procedures on June 22.



COME TO ALBERT LEA'S SAFETY DAY!

SEPTEMBER 19 | 4:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M. | MORIN PARK IN ALBERT LEA.

We'll be there with safety information, games and prizes, and a bucket truck on display. It's a fun and informative event for the entire family!

ceo message

Jim Krueger, President & CEO



DAIRYLAND POWER PURSUES NEW FUNDING PROGRAM

Electric energy creates possibility and innovation. Today's electric cooperatives are providing a path toward a more diverse and sustainable future, including the energy needed to electrify vehicles and other components of modern living.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture — Rural Development has launched a new tool available exclusively to rural electric cooperatives. The Empowering Rural America (New ERA) program is a \$9.7 billion program that is part of the Inflation Reduction Act and represents the largest investment in rural electrification since President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Rural Electrification Act into law in 1936.

We are excited for Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative (FMEC) to join wholesale power provider Dairyland Power Cooperative in utilizing this new funding rule as

we work to advance the clean energy transition without negatively affecting reliability or affordability. Dairyland Power is currently evaluating a portfolio of clean energy projects, including renewable energy and energy storage, to potentially include in our grant application for funding this summer. New ERA grant applications will be scored and ranked on the greatest reduction in the cost-per-unit measure of greenhouse gases. Projects must be reliable, financially and technically feasible, resilient, and affordable. New ERA creates opportunities for rural electric cooperatives of all sizes while ensuring that the cooperatives compete only against their peers of similar size. All projects must be completed and verified by September 30, 2031.

We will provide updates on project plans as they become available.

HELP HOLD DOWN WHOLESALE POWER COSTS

HERE'S HOW: The cost for Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative to purchase wholesale electricity is directly tied to the highest aggregate level of electrical demand occurring during peak demand times. #1207001 Efforts to hold down the demand related component of the cooperative's wholesale power bill will help stabilize the retail rates to cooperative members. That's why we urge our members to "do the summer shift."

When possible, please AVOID EXCESS ELECTRIC USE during these peak hours of demand, especially on extremely hot days:

Weekdays between 11:00 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Shift your use of these to early morning hours or later evenings:

- Dishwasher
- Clothes washer and dryer
- Oven
- Dehumidifier (put it on a timer)
- Pool Pumps (shut off when not in use)
- Use cool/warm water instead of hot.



member news

OFFICE CLOSED

Our office will open late, on Tuesday, August 29, for an employee event. The office will open at 8:00 a.m. Our office will be closed on Monday, September 4 in observance of Labor Day.

SERVICE UPGRADES, RELOCATION, HOUSE MOVES

Specifications and electrical codes are constantly changing, and it's our job to help you stay in compliance with the necessary requirements. Please contact our office to assist in your business or home electric service upgrade or relocation process. #292104 House or building moves that require the involvement of Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative crews require an advance notice of at least two weeks, the moving route, the height when loaded, and a down payment. To schedule a move, upgrade in service or relocation, please contact our office.

HOME AND BUSINESS SECURITY

Heartland Security will help you protect your home, family, and belongings so you can rest easy knowing you have the right system at the best price. With a new security system, you could also save on your homeowner's insurance policy. Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative is an owner of Heartland Security Systems. Contact them at (888) 264-6380 or www.heartlandss.com.

TEACH CHILDREN ELECTRIC SAFETY



Because the human body is made up of about 70% water, we are good conductors of electricity. Electricity will always find the easiest path to the earth or ground. Should that path be through the body, accidental electric contact can be deadly or cause painful internal burns that are extremely difficult to heal.

BABIES AND TODDLERS

- Keep charging cords unplugged when not in use and away from curious children who may put them in the mouth, loosen them from the outlet, or twist to prevent a choking hazard.
- Baby-proof exposed outlets with socket covers.
- Never let them stick fingers or other objects into electrical outlets or a light bulb receptacle.

YOUNG CHILDREN

- Warn them to never use any electrical devices near the sink, bathtub, or swimming pool.
- Teach them to always have dry hands before touching an electrical device. The same goes for not standing in water or puddles and using anything that is electrical.
- Cords should only be disconnected by pulling on the plug, never the cord.

ALL AGES

- Unplug the appliance or electrical device when cleaning it.
- Never use worn or damaged cords. Replace them immediately.
- Grounded electric plugs require all three prongs. Never remove the third grounding prong to make it fit an outlet.
- Do not throw materials of any kind or tied shoes on electric powerlines. Never try to remove anything entangled in a powerline.
- Electric substations are strictly off limits, as are underground powerline transformers and junction boxes. Stay away!
- Electrical equipment of all types should never be used for target practice or be the target of vandalism.
- Never touch or even go near any broken powerlines or wires on the ground. #292104 They could still be energized!
- Never fly kites, remote controlled airplanes, helicopters, and drones near powerlines.



NURTURING STRONG COMMUNITIES

One of the hallmarks of a successful cooperative is its strong connection with the communities it serves. Such is Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative’s grant program, Operation Round Up®.

Grants awarded for the second quarter of 2023 totaled \$25,494.97 and benefited 42 organizations! That’s an infusion of real money into our local communities — Operation Round Up® makes a significant impact!

Operation Round Up® is a voluntary, opt-out program. Members’ electric bills are rounded up to the next whole dollar amount. This creates a tax-deductible donation that is pooled into the Operation Round Up® fund, which is overseen by a separate board of trustees. This money is never mingled with the cooperative’s funds. #1207001 The trustees review applications and grant awards on a quarterly basis. Applications and program details are available at www.fmec.coop/operation-round

Thank you for supporting our communities by participating in Operation Round Up®.



2023 Minnesota Delegates

2023 YOUTH TOUR

Albert Lea student, Jaylee Waters, recently returned from what has been called a “trip of a lifetime” to Washington, D.C. As part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s (NRECA) Youth Tour, Jaylee was sponsored by Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative (FMEC) and joined more than 1,400 high schoolers from across the country for the week-long event at our nation’s capital.

“I had an unforgettable time in Washington, D.C.,” said an enthusiastic Jaylee. “I made life-long friends and memories. I am beyond thankful for this opportunity!”

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) organized and led the state’s delegation where students learned firsthand about politics, community development, and the cooperative business model. #2107205 They also met with members of Congress, including Senator Amy Klobuchar and Senator Tina Smith, and also Representative Angie Craig, Representative Dean Phillips, Representative Brad Finstad, and Representative Pete Stauber.

Included in the event were tours of the Library of Congress, the Capitol building, Arlington Cemetery, the Smithsonian Museums, and a variety of other sites and monuments. NRECA has hosted Youth Tour students in Washington, D.C. since 1964. More than 58,000 high school students have participated in this fun and educational trip since its inception.



Congratulations to Jaylee Waters for being selected by her fellow Minnesota delegates to represent the state on NRECA’s prestigious Youth Leadership Council!

The Youth Leadership Council will help her build public speaking and leadership skills. Additionally, she will be invited to participate in the 2024 NRECA Annual Meeting to be held this coming winter in San Antonio, Texas, and the MREA Annual Meeting to be held in St. Paul.

Thank you, Jaylee, for so competently representing Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative and Minnesota! We wish you all the best as you continue on the Youth Leadership Council!



Each year, Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative provides the opportunity for area high school students to apply to win this all-expense paid trip. Details will be posted in future issues of our County Lines newsletter and on our website. School Guidance Counselors will also be furnished with Youth Tour information.



Participating in community events is an important way in which Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative (FMEC) lives out its commitment to the Cooperative Difference. It’s our way of staying current and accessible.

On June 14, our employees enjoyed visiting with many FMEC members at the Wind Down Wednesday event in downtown Albert Lea.

STOP BY AND SEE US! We’ll be back on August 9.





WELCOME JESSE DEML!

We are happy to announce that Jesse Deml joined our FMEC team on June 19. He will be working as a Powerline Tree Trimmer. He has previous work experience in home construction and has lived on a small farm north of Ellendale for the past thirteen years. "I'm looking forward to learning the trade of a great company," he said of FMEC. Jesse enjoys hunting, fishing, and golfing whenever he can.

Jesse started with our cooperative as a Seasonal Apprentice Lineworker and recently moved into the full-time Powerline Tree Trimmer position.

GET PEACE OF MIND AGAINST EMERGENCY HOME REPAIR COSTS

Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative has partnered with HomeServe, an independent company separate from us, to offer members like you optional coverage to help protect against the costs of unexpected breakdowns.

HomeServe offers a comprehensive suite of home protection plans for the repair and maintenance of a wide range of energy, and water-related lines and systems.

See why over 4.8 million customers trust HomeServe. Explore plans now.



LEARN MORE

Scan this code, call (833) 334-1874, or visit www.FMECHomeServe.com to learn more about plans available to eligible homeowners in your area.



UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

WE NOTIFY YOU

- During storm situations and large power outages.
- Of scheduled power outages.
- With electric billing situations.
- With all other customer service.

CONTACT US

- If your email address changes.
- If you change phone numbers or disconnect a phone line.
- If you receive your mail at a different postal address.
- If your last name changes.

It is important to keep your current information on file, so we can keep you informed. If you would like to update your contact information, please send a message through your SmartHub account, or contact our office by phone, in person, or by email.

CLASSIFIED marketplace

FOR SALE

VEHICLES/MOTORIZED:

2009 HONDA SILVERWING. 600 cc, automatic, has extras, 18,000 miles. \$3,500 OBO. Call (507) 383-9044.

1998 RAM DIESEL DUALY TRUCK. Cummins Turbo, 117,179 mi, 12' box plus 5th wheel pull. \$7,500. Call (507) 481-6727.

FARM:

PINCOR 540 PTO GENERATOR. 30kw, on a homemade cart. \$1,000. Call (507) 460-0248.

1992 JOHN DEERE 420 LAWN TRACTOR. 60" deck, hi/low hydro, reliable, runs well. \$2000 OBO. Call (507) 383-1999.

HOUSEHOLD:

24" VIZIO TV. Remote control barely used. \$25. Call (507) 369-5172.

ORNATE ANTIQUE BUFFET, SOFA, LOVESEAT, ROCKER, 2 END TABLES, LAMPS, AREA RUGS. All are in good condition. Call (507) 383-7880.

FAN PILLOW - ANNA GRABER ORIGINALS, N.Y. Beautiful, large 22" x 15". Call (507) 373-0093.

TRADITIONAL (CUSTOM) WINGBACK CHAIR & FOOT STOOL. Beige with green/maroon decoy print. Call (507) 754-5103 for pictures.

VINTAGE CHINA BUNNIES. Cash only. Call (507) 438-7497.

MISC.:

CHAIN HOIST. \$100. Call (641) 257-9438.

INVACARE TRACER IV WHEELCHAIR. 24" wide, dark blue. \$250 OBO. Call (507) 438-5379.

AIR CONDITIONER. Brand new window unit. \$50. Call (507) 402-9019.

LARGE GREEN EGG GRILL with table. Call (507) 279-9761.

STEELCORE GUN SAFE. Holds 30 long & 8 handguns. 30-minute burn time, 3 yrs. old. You haul. \$500 OBO. Call (507) 373-4455.

TRUE WIRELESS PREMIUM EARBUDS by Gabba Goods. Never used. \$25. Call (507) 402-7800.

HEWITT 2400 NARROW PONTOON LIFT. \$750. LOWE 28' DOCK - 2 section, roll-in, \$1250. Call (507) 373-1063.

4 ADJUSTABLE LOAD SUPPORTS. 7'9". \$25 each or all for \$80. Call (507) 460-8601.

1998 POLARIS JET SKI SL-1050 with trailer. \$700. Call (507) 383-0802.

FREE

WURLITZER UPRIGHT PIANO. Call (507) 402-5986.

CHAIR & HALF COUCH. Brown. You pick it up. Call (507) 413-2236.

MARKETPLACE RULES

Classified Marketplace ads are printed in our monthly **County Lines** newsletter **FREE OF CHARGE** to our current members.

- Ad deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the issue in which it will be printed. Ads received after the 15th of the month will be printed a month later. Example: An ad received on or before June 15th will appear in the July issue. If it is received on June 16th or later, it will appear in the August issue.
- Ads will not be repeated.

You can review the complete Classified Marketplace Rules and/or submit an ad at www.fmec.coop. Select **MY COOPERATIVE**. Click on **NEWSLETTER** under **NEWS & INFO** tab. You may also email ads to michelle.rayman@fmec.coop or go to the website, use the instructions above, and click on the **NEWSLETTER** tab to electronically submit an ad. Ads will not be accepted over the phone.

SPOT YOUR NUMBER

WIN A \$25 BILL CREDIT

To reward our faithful newsletter readers, we've randomly selected and hidden three (3) member account numbers and placed them in the newsletter, each two times. Hidden account numbers are spelled out numerically. (Ex: #123456)

If you spot your full account number, contact the cooperative by the 15th of the current month to claim your \$25 bill credit.



FREEBORN MOWER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Albert Lea MN 56007

(507) 373-6421 or (800) 734-6421
www.fmec.coop
info@fmec.coop



Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Board Meetings:

Typically the last Tuesday of each month.

*Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative is an
equal opportunity provider and employer.*



Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative is collecting school supply donations. Donate through September 8th!

As children head back to school, you can help them out by donating supplies. A wide variety of items are needed. Again, this year, FMEC will be a drop-off location for supplies. Donate now through September 8 at our office, located at 3366 Bridge Avenue, Albert Lea, during normal business hours.

The supplies will be divided between schools in Freeborn and Mower Counties.

LET'S COOK



CUCUMBER LEMONADE Submitted By: **Becky Bias**

- 5 med cucumbers, peeled and cut
- 2 1/2 cups water
- 1/3 C + 2 Tbsp lemon juice
- 4 Tbsp sugar

Directions:

Place cucumbers in blender, add 1 1/2 C water, blend well, and strain. Return strained liquid to blender, add 1 C water, lemon juice, and sugar blend together. Add more sugar if you prefer. Chill and serve. Yields approximately 32 oz.

Members may submit one short recipe per month by email at michelle.rayman@fmec.coop or by mail at FMEC Newsletter, PO Box 611, Albert Lea, MN 56007. The member whose recipe is published will receive a \$10 electric bill credit.