











## SWEET SUMMER ENERGY SAVINGS

**Understanding how and when you use electricity is the first step to saving money and increasing your household's energy efficiency. Here are a few easy tips:**

-  Utilize fans for home comfort rather than dropping your air conditioning setting.
-  Replace traditional incandescent lightbulbs with energy-efficient options like LED bulbs.
-  Replace or clean your air conditioner's filter to improve airflow, increase efficiency, and maintain better indoor air quality.
-  Install a programmable thermostat. Adjust the temperature setting higher for hours when the home is not occupied.
-  Consider energy efficiency when choosing a swimming pool pump.
-  Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible. When turning on your air conditioner, note that setting the thermostat to a colder setting than desired will not cool your home any faster.
-  Reduce heat gain by using drapes and window coverings.
-  Grilling outdoors and enjoying cool summer salads cut down on oven and cooktop use.

**YOU'LL FIND MORE IDEAS AND INFORMATION UNDER  
THE SERVICES TAB ON OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.FMEC.COOP](http://WWW.FMEC.COOP).**

## DO THE SUMMER SHIFT

When the demand for electricity is high, the cost to supply wholesale electricity also increases. The highest aggregate level of demand that occurs is linked to a large portion of Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative's wholesale power bill. Since wholesale power is the cooperative's largest expense, efforts to hold down the demand related component will help stabilize the retail rates to cooperative members.

When possible, please avoid excess electric use during these peak hours of demand, especially on extremely hot days:

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

You can help by shifting your use of these appliances to morning hours or later evenings:

- Dishwasher
- Clothes washer and dryer
- Oven
- Dehumidifier  
(put it on a timer)





## ceo message

Jim Krueger, President & CEO

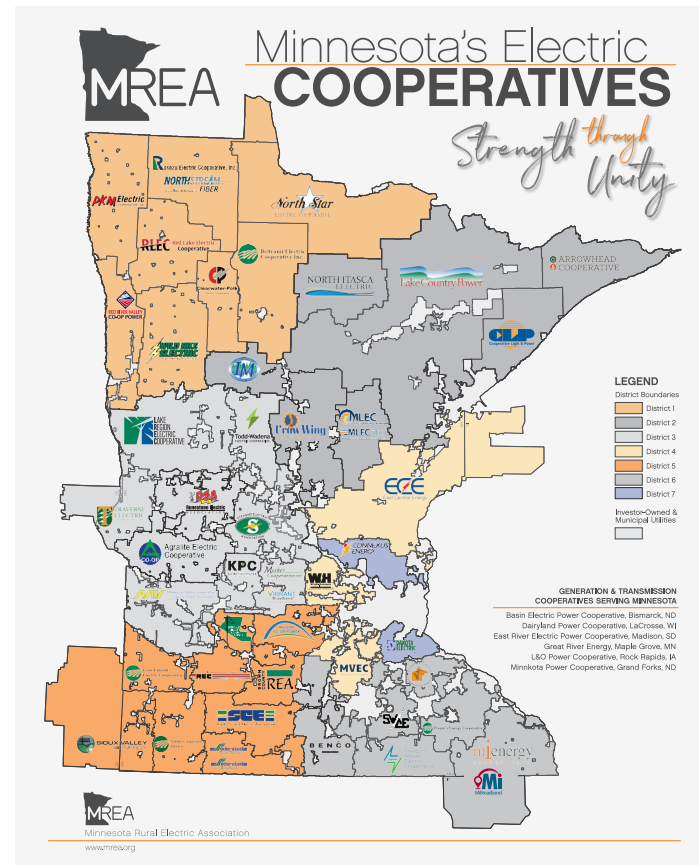


## ENERGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION REMAIN TOP CONCERNS

Electric cooperatives have a long tradition of working together to overcome obstacles and enhance our ability to provide safe and reliable electricity at an affordable price. During this time of major transition in energy-related policies, collaborative efforts provide local cooperatives with a robust and persuasive voice.

We are pleased that the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently structured workable guidance for electric cooperatives seeking to access \$9.7 billion in energy innovation funding. USDA listened to NRECA and its electric cooperatives when setting the rules for a program that is designed specifically for electric cooperatives interested in purchasing or building new clean energy systems. This resulting program was directly shaped through co-op participation. Eligible projects include carbon capture, renewable energy, storage, nuclear, and generation and transmission improvements. Additionally, each cooperative will be allowed to determine its path based on its unique circumstances. Grants will be considered for as much as 25% of the project cost, with an expense cap.

It is important to understand that about 60% of electricity generated in the U.S. last year came from burning fossil fuels at the nation's 3,400 coal and gas-fired power plants. Against that backdrop, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed ambitious regulations that could force power plants to capture emissions using technology that has long been promised but is not used widely in the United States. According to the EPA, power plants would be required to cut or capture nearly all their carbon dioxide emissions by 2038. #2177600 Plants that cannot meet the new standards would be forced to close and also make new natural gas plants exceedingly difficult to permit, site, and build. This would further strain the nation's electric grid and undermine decades of work to achieve high levels of reliability. We will continue to provide updates as legislation and regulations evolve.



**Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) represents 1.7 million Minnesotans by actively engaging with law and policymakers at the state and federal levels. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is comprised of nearly 900 local electric cooperatives which serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape. Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative participates in both entities.**

## member news

### ENJOY THE HOLIDAY!

We will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th.  
Call (800) 734-6421 or (507) 373-6421 to report an outage or emergency.

### JULY STATEMENT INCLUDES CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATION

The allocation of the 2022 margins has been completed. If you had service in 2022 and are an active member of Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative (FMEC), look for your Capital Credit allocation notice on your July billing statement. Members who became inactive during the year will receive an allocation notice in a separate mailing.

Allocation of Capital Credits is based on the cooperative principle of doing business at cost. Any earnings remaining after paying expenses are allocated back to members as Capital Credits. Capital Credits represent your share of ownership and become your capital investment in FMEC. They are held by the cooperative until a general retirement is approved by action of the Board of Directors.

Capital Credits belong to the member; therefore, it is important to keep your current address on file with FMEC, especially if you no longer receive service from the co-op, so that retirement checks can be sent to you. Current members receive Capital Credits in the form of bill credits. For more information about Capital Credits, please contact Joanne Miller at (507) 379-8860 or joanne.miller@fmec.coop.

### OUTDOOR AREA LIGHTING

Outdoor area lighting can provide additional safety and convenience for your home, farm, or business. Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative offers metered and unmetered outdoor lighting. The light will come on at dusk and go off at dawn. Complete the form on our website or contact our office at (507) 373-6421 for more information.

## MONITORING FOR GRID RELIABILITY

Recent reports from the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) have mixed reviews for grid reliability this summer. Both entities report MISO has adequate power resources to meet typical summer peak demand; however, the key to meeting extra energy requirements will likely come down to relying on wind energy. Although MISO is preparing for an "elevated risk" of not meeting power needs during times of peak demand, that is a level below the "high risk" category the region was in last summer.

Locally, leaders at Dairyland Power are confident in the wholesale power generation and transmission cooperative's ability to provide its members, which includes FMEC, with the electricity that will be needed this summer due to its robust generation portfolio and purchase power agreements.

Aggressive decarbonization goals remain concerning to the electric utility industry. In recent years, most new construction of generation resources has been renewables. However, the intermittent nature of wind and solar means they cannot be relied upon at all times. With the early retirement of baseload power plants, which we have relied on for decades, the foundation of electricity reliability cracks. For example, constructing 400 Megawatts worth of wind farms will not fully replace the retirement of a 400 MW base load plant. #1348102 This is because the wind farm can only generate electricity when the wind is blowing. A sufficient network of transmission lines would also be necessary to connect the wind turbines to the larger electric grid. By contrast, a 400 MW base load plant could provide a steady source of electricity 24 hours a day.

Our power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, is committed to meeting sustainability goals and ensuring reliable, cost-competitive electricity through investment in renewable energy and the 'always available' resources that support them.



# 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](http://www.FMECHomeServe.com) to learn more about plans available to eligible homeowners in your area.



## FROM THE FIELD

# OPERATIONS UPDATE

From Al Stadheim, PE, Director of Engineering & Operations

Planned outages allow our crews to perform maintenance and upgrades to the electric distribution system. There were several planned outages in the City of Leroy during the month of June to allow for changes in line voltage. Lyle will see numerous small planned outages that will occur throughout the summer and into the early fall season as we perform the same type of work. When we have planned outages FMEC does its best to reach out to the cooperative members who will be affected. We greatly appreciate your understanding for the inconvenience that occurs but know that this is work necessary to meet growing electric use in the community and enhance service reliability.

The bulk of our construction work this year is very rural, such as along the Mansfield to Emmons route where there are only four accounts. This points to our commitment of service to every co-op member. We also will be working along the London to Lyle route where there are about a dozen accounts.

As we approach the autumn months members will see us working in Glenville. We will be moving the city's electric service to a new substation. Additionally, there will be significant upgrades made on the west and south sides of Glenville. #2177600 Two miles of new three-phase underground cable will greatly improve reliability and add system redundancy options for service to the city.

An assessment of FMEC's safety program, rules, and ongoing employee training was held in late May. The Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) showed that the cooperative rates very high with its strong emphasis on safety training and protocols. In addition to evaluating elements of our internal safety program and safety improvement plan, the assessment covered all areas of the cooperative's grounds and buildings, all vehicles, and personal protective equipment. No major issues were discovered and the very few items that need attention are slated to be addressed by our safety committee. I personally want to thank our employees for doing a fantastic job and keeping safety as job #1.



# 811 CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

Summer is the season for landscaping and construction projects. Every job that requires digging or excavating requires a call to 811 at least three workdays in advance. It's a free call that connects you to a statewide locating agency for utilities serving your area.

You can also visit [www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org) and enter your dig information online. #1382400 Either way, this is a free and important service!

Knowing the location of buried utility lines, pipes, and cables will protect you and your workers from serious injury. It also prevents potential service disruptions and damage to utility infrastructure which can be extremely costly.

Have the following ready before calling:

- Your name
- Phone number
- Street address
- Exact dig location
- Nearest Intersection
- Type of work
- Start date and time

Gopher State One Call can only locate services that utilities have installed. You or a private contractor will need to locate any privately owned facilities such as sprinklers, power lines to an outbuilding, or a gas grill line.

Failure to report excavation ahead of time and waiting to dig until facilities are marked can result in fines against a person or company, accidents, explosions, or even the possibility of injuries or death.



# WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES

## T.J. KALIS

T. J. Kalis joined Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative on May 8 in the position of Substation Technician Foreman. He came to us as an experienced Journeyman Lineman from Alliant Energy. He had also been employed as Electric Design Project Coordinator with Owatonna Public Utilities.

“I’m happy to be working in my hometown area,” said T. J. The Albert Lea native and his wife, Kelly, reside in Albert Lea and have two young daughters.



## MITCHELL DREW

Mitch joined FMEC on June 5 as a Seasonal Apprentice Lineworker. He has previous work experience from an internship at an electric cooperative in his home state of Missouri.

Mitch is enthusiastic about “all the new things I will learn,” adding that he is enjoying being in Minnesota. “I’m excited to be here. I’ve loved Minnesota since I was a kid and would visit. #1348102 He and his wife, Rebecca, currently reside in Clarks Grove.

# CLASSIFIED *marketplace*

## FOR SALE

### VEHICLES/MOTORIZED:

**2003 FORD 150. V6**, 2-wheel drive, club cab, matching topper, dark beige. Mileage 240,000. \$3,000. Call (507) 481-6390.

**2007 GMC YUKON SLT**. 4 wd, DVD, good condition, 286,000 miles. \$4,000. Call (507) 383-7457.

**1999 CHEV. CAVALIER Z24 CONVERTIBLE**. Red, 112K, no rust. Call (507) 481-6199.

**1995 WINNEBAGO ITASCA SUNDANCER RV**. Class C, 1 previous owner, good condition, low mileage. \$15,000. Call (507) 373-0324.

**1986 BMW 535**. 236,000 miles, great condition. \$5,000 OBO. Call (507) 402-3330.

### FARM:

**1977 GREEN CHOP CHOPPER** in good working order. \$800. Call (507) 340-7530.

**GSi GRAIN BIN**. 18,000 bushel, 7 rings high, 36’ diameter. No aeration floor. Call (507) 440-4271.

**CUB CADET TRACTOR XT1**. 42” cut. Call (507) 438-7497, cash only.

### HOUSEHOLD:

**OAK CABINET**. 54” h x 20” d x 30” w. Open area, 1 drawer & 1 set of doors. \$25. Call (507) 383-3976.

**KITCHEN TABLE & 6 CHAIRS**. Table 42” x 64” plus 18” leaf. Upholstered roller chairs. Very good condition. Call (507) 256-4307.

**5 CLAW FOOT BATHTUBS**. Must sell. \$75 each. Call (507) 438-5068.

**SAVOUREUX PRO LINE CONVECTION OVEN**. Model 2206 with instruction manual. Call (507) 383-4909.

**GALANZE MICROWAVE**. White, glass turntable, 17 1/2” x 13” x 11” tall. (New \$69) asking \$35. Call (651) 278-3601.

**ROUND OAK CLUB FOOT TABLE** with 2 leaves and 4 chairs. Excellent condition. \$400. Call (507) 402-5986.

**LIFT CHAIR**. Tan. \$250. Call (507) 373-4555.

### MISC:

**PART WASHER**. \$125. Call (641) 257-9438.

**EXCELSIOR TURNING LATHE** with extension & 8 pc turning knife set. \$350. (507) 383-2258

**DOCK**. 50 plus feet. 3 wood sections of dock post & tires. Call (507) 377-3428.

**STIHL LEAF BLOWER**. Like new. Call (507) 383-0410 or (507) 383-0411.

**2 SEAT E-RAIL BIKE**. Red, loaded with accessories, 27 speed. \$600 OBO. Call (507) 377-2119.

**MEN’S NEW BALANCE TENNIS SHOES**. Size 13, med. width, color – blue on white & gray. \$15. Call (507) 460-8168.

**SKID LOADER TILT TRAILER**. All steel, 7,000 lb., single axel, 6’ x 12’, 8 ply tires. \$450. Call (507) 383-0802.

**DEVILBISS AIR COMPRESSOR**. 3 hp., 12 gal. capacity, 50’ hose. \$60. Call (507) 460-8601.

**1995 SHADOW CRUISER 850 P/U CAMPER**. Very good condition, always shedded. Slight use. Call (507) 383-8214.

**2010 LGT 2554 HUSQVARNA**. 25 hp Kohler, 54” deck, 480 hours, 3 blade sets. Works perfect. \$1,100. Call (952) 451-0056.

**14’ BROOKLYN KAYAK**. Perfect shape, sit on top, tandem pedal drive, upright seats, paddle set. Unsinkable. \$1,900. Call (507) 676-0228.

**WEBER CHAR-BROIL ELECTRIC GRILL** with cover, in excellent condition. \$85. Call (507) 437-1615.

## WANTED

**UPRIGHT FREEZER**. In good condition and reasonably priced. Call (507) 460-8017.

**FISH SPEAR**. Call (507) 402-0880.

**JOHN DEERE 530 TRACTOR**. Call (507) 259-6872 or (507) 280-4132.

**LIME CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH COMMEMORATIVE PLATE**. Call (507) 297-5799.

## CLASSIFIED MARKETPLACE RULES

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

- Ad deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the issue in which it will be printed. Ads received after the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month will be printed a month later. Example: An ad received on or before June 15<sup>th</sup> will appear in the July issue. If it is received on June 16<sup>th</sup> or later, it will appear in the August issue.
- A Classified Marketplace section appears in each issue except for our special Annual Report issue, typically in March.
- We take ads in these categories: For Sale; Wanted; Free/ Giveaway.
- Ads can be for: Vehicles/ Motorized; Animals; Household; Farm; Miscellaneous.
- No business ads will be accepted. Ads must be submitted in writing or electronically, not by phone call.
- Ads will not be repeated.
- One ad/item per member, per month.

You will find a downloadable form on our website: [www.fmec.coop](http://www.fmec.coop). Select **MY COOPERATIVE**. Click on **NEWSLETTER** under **NEWS & INFO** tab.

You may also email ads to [michelle.rayman@fmec.coop](mailto:michelle.rayman@fmec.coop) or go to the website, use the instructions above, and click on the **NEWSLETTER** tab to electronically submit an ad.

## IT'S *parade* SEASON

Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative enjoys participating in community parades because it's an opportunity to connect with the members we serve and showcase our commitment to the community. We love seeing your smiling faces as the bucket truck comes downs the road!



Morin Lake Days  
Alden, MN Parade



USPS 209-540 ISSN 8755-9099

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Postmaster: Send address corrections to:  
County Lines, P.O. Box 611, Albert Lea, MN 56007-0611

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President: Jim Krueger, President & CEO  
Telephone: (507) 373-6421

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the current month to claim your \$25 bill credit.

Congratulations to Mike Wubben! He spotted his account number in the June newsletter.



### FREEBORN MOWER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

PO Box 611  
3366 Bridge Avenue  
Albert Lea MN 56007

(507) 373-6421 or (800) 734-6421  
[www.fmec.coop](http://www.fmec.coop)  
[info@fmec.coop](mailto: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.*

## CONVENIENT AND SECURE

### Use SmartHub 24/7 to:

- Review your account.
- Access energy usage graphs.
- Make a payment securely.
- Review billing history.
- Sign up for Auto Pay.
- Enroll in paperless billing.
- Sign up to receive email and text alert notifications.
- Report power outages and communicate with FMEC.



**REGISTER TODAY**  
[www.fmec.coop](http://www.fmec.coop)

## LET'S COOK



### BEST BAKED BEANS

Submitted By: Sylvia DeVries

- |                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • 1 gallon Bush's Baked Beans   | • 1 large onion, chopped         |
| • 1 lb. bacon, fried & crumbled | • 1 can 20 oz. crushed pineapple |
| • 1 C. ketchup                  |                                  |
| • 1 C. brown sugar              |                                  |

#### Directions:

Mix all ingredients together. Bake in the oven for three hours at 275 degrees. #1382400 The recipe could also be cooked in a crockpot.

*Members may submit one short recipe per month by email at [michelle.rayman@fmec.coop](mailto: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.*