



An Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer

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WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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2005 W. Fulton, P.O. Box 973
Garden City, KS 67846

Great Bend — 620-793-4223

200 10th St., P.O. Box 1446
Great Bend, KS 67530

Harper — 620-896-7090

906 Central, P.O. Box 247
Harper, KS 67058

Leoti — 620-375-2632

101 W. F St., P.O. Box 966
Leoti, KS 67861

Scott City-Main — 620-872-5885

101 S. Main St., P.O. Box 230
Scott City, KS 67871

Syracuse — 620-384-5171

206 N. Main, P.O. Box 1010
Syracuse, KS 67878

Tribune — 620-376-4231

310 Broadway, P.O. Box 490
Tribune, KS 67879

FROM THE MANAGER

Thankful for Our Members

As we approach the holiday season, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of our members. Being a member of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) means more than simply receiving electricity — it means being part of something bigger. As a member-owned cooperative, your involvement and support allow us to serve not just you but the communities that you live and work in. Through initiatives like Power the Pantry, we work together to make a lasting impact, helping those in need and strengthening the communities we call home. This is the true spirit of cooperation.

Thanks to your generosity, over the past 10 years, our members have donated an astounding 317,693 pounds of food — just over 159 tons! This program would not be possible without your heartfelt contributions, and we look forward to sharing the totals from this year's efforts in the coming months.

As the holidays draw near, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on what you are thankful for in your own life. At WEC, we're thankful for our members and the positive difference we make together.



Bruce W. Mueller

Finally, as we celebrate this season of gratitude, let us not forget to thank our veterans for their service and the sacrifices they have made. It's because of their courage and dedication that we enjoy the freedoms we have today.

Thank you for being a WEC member — without you, our cooperative would not be what we are today.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING from all of us here at WEC, and a friendly reminder that we will be closed **NOV. 11** to celebrate Veterans Day.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Keep your holidays happy by handling food safely. Wash your hands frequently when handling food and keep raw meat away from fresh produce. Use separate cutting boards, plates and utensils for uncooked and cooked meats to avoid cross-contamination. Always use a food thermometer to make sure meat is cooked to a safe temperature. Refrigerate hot or cold leftover food within two hours of being served. When storing turkey, cut the leftovers in small pieces so they will chill quickly.

12 WEC Lineworkers Assist in South Carolina Hurricane Restoration

A dozen linemen from Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., made their way to South Carolina beginning on Oct. 3 and returning Oct. 13, providing mutual aid assistance following the devastation left behind by Hurricane Helene.

Crew members from Syracuse, Tribune, Leoti, Garden City, Great Bend, Caldwell and Harper joined nearly 70 additional lineworkers from 14 other Kansas co-ops to answer the call sent out by Aiken Electric Cooperative in Aiken, South Carolina, where Helene left more than 100,000 members without power.

At the height of the Helene, Aiken EC reported 92% of its system was down, leaving only a few thousand members with power. Just before crews from Kansas started their journey east, 50% of Aiken's members were still without power. The damage was so severe, the Carolina co-op reported that "it's more than power restoration, but rather a complete system rebuild."

Together, Kansas co-ops convoyed nearly 40 pieces of equipment — from bucket trucks to diggers to skid steers — to aid in Aiken's power restoration efforts.

Why? **COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES** is one of our seven guiding principles. By working together through local, regional, national and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.

"Our linemen embody the spirit of cooperation and service that defines our co-op," said Bruce W. Mueller, CEO/general manager. "Aiken's needs were great, and so we didn't hesitate to lend a helping hand. It's not just about restoring power — it's also about restoring hope and resilience. We're proud of our linemen for their commitment and their dedication to being there for others in their time of need."

The electric cooperative mutual aid model allows electric co-ops to work with each other during times of crisis. This approach permits co-ops to "borrow" restoration workers from other co-ops, thereby increasing the workforce response to areas impacted by a major outage event. It's essentially about neighbors helping neighbors, even when those neighbors are fellow co-ops located hundreds of miles away.

Mutual aid has been a fundamental part of our DNA since co-ops were formed. The concept of mutual aid originated with the rural electrification efforts in the 1930s. From the very beginning, electric co-ops relied on each other to assist in times of need, and mutual aid provides an essential safety net in times of crisis.

“Our linemen embody the spirit of cooperation and service that defines our co-op. Aiken’s needs were great, and so we didn’t hesitate to lend a helping hand.”

**BRUCE W. MUELLER, CEO/
GENERAL MANAGER**



TOP FROM LEFT: WEC Line Foreman Clinton Gulick, Caldwell; and Journeyman Linemen Adam Parker, Harper; and Devan York, Caldwell; take a photo in Little Rock, Arkansas, on Oct. 4, during their journey to South Carolina.

MIDDLE FROM LEFT: Line Foreman Justin Skelton with Journeyman Linemen Chris Oliver, Jesse Harbrige, Garrett Wilson, Manny Gonzalez and Kris Lehmann outside of WEC's Garden City office on Oct. 3.

BOTTOM FROM LEFT: Line Foreman Tyson Ryff with Journeyman Linemen Drew Burger and Jesus Villegas at WEC's Great Bend warehouse prior to their journey to South Carolina.

APPLY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME



JUNE 14 - 20, 2025

AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

- An all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., paid for by your Wheatland Electric Cooperative.
- A week of visiting historic monuments, touring world class museums and meeting elected officials.
- Developing life-long friendships with delegates from across the country!

HOW TO APPLY

- Applicants must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by WEC.
- The deadline is JAN. 13, 2025

LEARN MORE AT WWW.WECI.NET

EMPOWER



FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM: [NRECAYouthTourDC](https://www.facebook.com/NRECAYouthTourDC)

JULY 11-17, 2025

COOPERATIVE YOUTH
LEADERSHIP CAMP

CYLC

LEADERSHIP

Learn about the co-op business model and develop leadership skills.

COMMUNITY

Students from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming create a candy co-op, run camp activities and make meaningful connections.

MEMORIES

From rafting on the Colorado River to exploring downtown Steamboat Springs — you'll be sure to capture memories to remember for a lifetime.

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS APPLYING FOR THE YOUTH TOUR (SEE ABOVE) WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.



VETERANS DAY

Honoring All Who Served

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON
MONDAY, NOV. 11
IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO
HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Our offices will close starting at
2:30 p.m. CT Nov. 27 and will be closed
Nov. 28 and 29 for the holiday.

Wheatland Named Regional Winner in 2024 Kansas Business Awards

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., has been named a regional finalist in this year's Kansas Business Awards, earning state-level recognition for our services and programs for the second year in a row.

The annual awards program hosted by the Kansas Department of Commerce recognizes businesses across the state for the valuable contributions they make to the Kansas economy and to the well-being of their communities.

WEC was named a **REGIONAL AWARD WINNER (SOUTHWEST)** in the **BUSINESS INNOVATION** category this year, thanks to our efforts building and promoting electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure across our service territory and informing our cooperative membership on the benefits of driving electric.

"WEC was nominated because you are creating job opportunities, products and services, innovating and diversifying the local marketplace, building community identity, and so much more," according to a letter written by Kansas Gov. Laura Kelley. "You have made an impact in your community, and that impact has been noticed."

Starting in late 2021, WEC unveiled two Level 2 public EV charging stations, located at our offices in Garden City (2005 W. Fulton St.) and Great Bend (200 10th St.) And a third public EV charging station was installed at our Harper office (906 Central) earlier this year. All three

stations boast two charging ports at each site and are available for use through the ChargePoint app on a smart phone or other internet-connected mobile device. In fact, WEC's ChargePoint stations belong to a much larger, international network of charging stations, making it easy for drivers to locate, charge, and get back on the road.

Following the installation of our first two charging stations, WEC also introduced cooperative members to our newly launched EV programs and services in early 2022, which include assistance in purchasing and financing at-home chargers, consumer rebates (to promote EV ownership), and partnerships with local electricians to facilitate at-home charging installation.

That same year, WEC also began hosting Ride+Drive events to allow cooperative members to get behind the wheel of all-electric vehicles, including two belonging to our fleet: a 2021 Hyundai Kona Electric, and Ford F-150 Lightning, the latter of which was added to WEC's operations fleet in 2023.

Over the years, we've also developed promotional materials and worked to educate our members about the benefits of EVs, including high performance and reliability and low maintenance costs. We've even added a digital tool (www.weci).



Pictured (from left) are Jim McVay, assistant general manager and general counsel; Mary Hoisington, member services and key accounts manager; Alli Conine, director of member services and corporate communications; Kansas Lieutenant Governor David Toland; Shajia Donecker, multimedia specialist; and Brandon Barrett, director of operations.

net/electric-vehicle) which is available for free online so our members, and the public at large, can learn more about EVs on the market today, calculate EV savings, find tax credits and other incentives, and learn more about public and at-home charging.

WEC employees have also visited local civic groups and met with other community stakeholders over the years to share EV news and information, and educate and inform members using our vehicles, too. For example, local fire officials in Great Bend have worked with WEC employees to learn more about how electric vehicles work as part of their first-responder safety and training.

WEC was the first electric cooperative in Kansas to adopt an experimental commercial EV charging station tariff (as of Jan. 1, 2021). Earlier this year, WEC trustees voted to update the existing tariff, making it more competitive and attractive to outside investors looking to install Level 2 or DC fast-charging

across our service territory.

“We’re honored to receive this state award for our electric vehicle programs that directly benefit our members,” said Bruce W. Mueller, CEO/general manager. “This recognition reflects our commitment to innovation, sustainability, and providing our members with forward-thinking solutions that meet their changing needs. By investing in EV infrastructure, we’re enhancing convenience today, while also preparing our communities for the future of transportation.”

This year’s 2024 “To the Stars: Kansas Businesses Awards” ceremony was held on Oct. 3, in Great Bend, where multiple WEC employees attended to be honored and recognized by state officials.



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COLD WEATHER ACCOMMODATION

BEGINS NOV. 15

Wheatland Electric has adopted the following cold weather accommodation policy for residential members. All delinquent accounts are subject to disconnection when temperatures exceed 35 F for a 48-hour period between Nov. 15 and March 15, unless a member requests a cold weather accommodation.

In order for a member to retain electric service when temperatures are above 35 F during the cold weather period, they must comply with the following provisions:

- Inform us of their inability to pay their account in full.
- Complete and sign a Cold Weather Accommodation agreement.
- Pay any outstanding billed deposit in full.
- Pay half of each current bill during the cold weather period.
- Past due balances (including the bill due Nov. 5) must be paid in full at the inception of the cold weather period.
- Apply for federal, state or local funds for which the member may be eligible.
- Agree to make an arrearage payment plan or sign up for our Prepay Power program at the conclusion of the cold weather period.

Members who do not adhere to their accommodation agreement are not eligible for payment arrangements at the conclusion of the cold weather period. The entire outstanding balance, applicable fees and additional deposit, if applicable, are due and payable prior to reconnection if service is disconnected. Questions? Contact your local WEC office today.



Ham FOR THE Holidays

Tyson Fresh Meats Powers the Pantry with Donation to Local Food Banks

In a heartening demonstration of generosity just ahead of the holidays, Tyson Fresh Meats recently donated \$17,500 worth of honey ham deli meat to help us Power the Pantry in 2024!

This donation, benefitting eight local food banks across Wheatland Electric Cooperative's service territory, brings critical protein resources to families in need and underscores the power of community partnerships in addressing hunger.

On Oct. 2, staff members from WEC's Member Services team picked up and delivered the honey ham to the Barton County Food Bank in Great Bend; Hamilton County Food Bank in Syracuse; Greeley County Food Bank in Tribune; Wichita County Food Bank in Leoti; and Hope's Closet in Scott City.

In addition, Tyson donated equal amounts of food commodities to the Emmaus House and Genesis Family Health in Garden City, and Horns for Hope c/o USD 363 in Holcomb, on behalf of our annual food drive.

Continued on page 12H ▶



Caitlin Moser (left) assists Kathleen Dowling, from the Greeley County Food Pantry, with packing boxes of ham into freezers at the food bank in Tribune.



ABOVE: Eight food banks across southwest and central Kansas received several hundred pounds of honey ham deli meat from Tyson Fresh Meats to stock freezers ahead of the holidays.



RIGHT TOP: Pictured from left are Mary Hoisington, member services and key accounts manager; Caitlin Moser, member services coordinator; Juan Rico, community liaison at Tyson; Alli Conine, director of member services and corporate communications; and Samantha Garcia, member services and key accounts manager.



RIGHT MIDDLE: Member services employees distribute the boxes of honey ham for delivery on Oct. 2 at the Tyson plant in Holcomb.



RIGHT BOTTOM: Volunteers at the Hamilton County Food Bank receive honey ham to stock their freezers on Oct. 2.



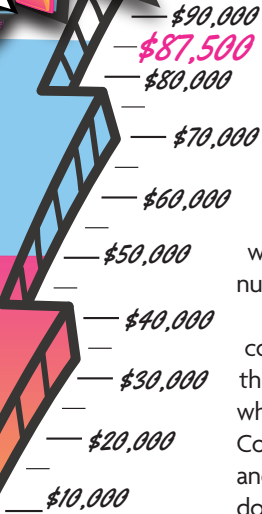
Ham FOR THE Holidays

Continued from page 12F ▶

GOAL
\$100,000



your impact so far!



WE
pledge

The timing of this contribution couldn't be more fitting, as many families face growing grocery costs and limited food supplies. By providing high-quality, protein-rich deli meat, Tyson Fresh Meats is helping to bridge the gap for those who may not otherwise have access to nutritious options.

"We're grateful for Tyson's commitment to our communities and their dedication to making a difference where it matters most," said Alli Conine, director of member services and corporate communications. "This donation will help feed hundreds of

families across our region and provides a meaningful boost to our local food banks."

Tyson's contribution serves as an inspiring example of how organizations can work together to address essential needs within their communities. At WEC, we believe these types of partnerships make our community stronger, especially during times of need. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Tyson for their support to Power the Pantry in 2024 and their shared dedication to creating a positive impact in our communities to help those most in need.

GREAT BEND SCHOOLS COMPETITION FOOD DRIVE

Sponsored By **Gifting Forward**



Benefitting the Community Food Bank of Barton County

Bring your non-perishable food items (or make a cash donation using the QR code below) Nov. 4-8 and **MAKE YOUR SCHOOL A WINNER!**

Cash awards are based on the highest pounds donated per student.



- 1st place - \$600
- 2nd place - \$400
- 3rd place - \$250
- 4th place - \$250



USE YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA TO SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT OUR LINK AT WWW.WECL.NET/SCHOOLS-COMPETITION

