



## WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# NEWS

### Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Bruce W. Mueller—General Manager

#### Board of Trustees

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**Wes Campbell**

Vice President

**Dan Bonine**

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Trustee

**Katie Eisenhour**

Trustee

**Bob Hiss**

Trustee

**John Kleysteuber**

Trustee

**Mike Thon**

Trustee

#### District Offices

**Garden City**

2005 W Fulton  
P.O. Box 973  
Garden City, KS  
67846  
620-275-0261

**Great Bend**

2300 Broadway  
P.O. Box 1446  
Great Bend, KS  
67530  
620-793-4223

**Harper**

906 Central  
P.O. Box 247  
Harper, KS 67058  
620-896-7090

**Leoti**

N Hwy 25  
P.O. Box 966  
Leoti, KS 67861  
620-375-2632

**Scott City-Main**

101 Main Street  
P.O. Box 230  
Scott City, KS 67871  
620-872-5885

**Syracuse**

206 1/2 N Main  
P.O. Box 1010  
Syracuse, KS 67878  
620-384-5171

**Tribune**

310 Broadway  
P.O. Box 490  
Tribune, KS 67879  
620-376-4231

### FROM THE MANAGER

## Cooperation Amongst Cooperatives



Bruce W. Mueller

Every day, Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. is hard at work to make sure all our members have the electric power they need at a competitive price. And behind the scenes, we are working with a network of cooperatives to make that happen.

#### Generation and Transmission

Wheatland is a member-owner of **SUNFLOWER ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION** and **MID-KANSAS ELECTRIC COMPANY**, which generates the power, for Wheatland as well as Victory, Pioneer, Lane-Scott, Western and Prairie Land electric cooperatives. We helped to create this generation and transmission co-op so that we have more control over power supply and pricing.

#### National Affiliations

Operation of an electric co-op also takes capital, so when we need to borrow money, we turn to either the **NATIONAL RURAL UTILITIES COOPERATIVE FINANCE CORPORATION (CFC)** or **COBANK**. Both organizations are also cooperatives. CFC is owned by electric co-ops throughout the coun-

try, and CoBank is owned by electric and agricultural co-ops nationwide.

As you know, every month we generate an electric bill that we send to you either electronically or through regular mail. We use **NATIONAL INFORMATION SOLUTIONS COOPERATIVE (NISC)**, yet another cooperative, to ensure we can apply the latest technology, and send timely and accurate bills to you.

Our business cannot operate without several different types of insurance, such as general liability, auto and workmen's compensation. So once again, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, we are members of an insurance cooperative, Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange. This allows us to maintain reliable coverage at an affordable price.

Wheatland Electric is a member of Touchstone Energy, a nationwide alliance of 750 local, member-owned electric cooperatives. Our participation allows us access to a wealth of informational materials. It also allows us to benchmark our performance in comparison with other co-ops so that we can learn from others as we constantly strive to serve you better.

Wheatland is also part of the Cooperative Response Center, which allows us to answer your calls 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

*Continued on page 16-F ▶*

# Understanding Your V

Along with understanding your bill, the terminology and charges, consider these easy ways to save energy and money.

Saving money on energy can be easily accomplished in many ways. One of these ways is by visiting TogetherWeSave.com. Touchstone Energy Cooperative has put together a site that features more than a dozen energy-efficiency interactive web applications linked to a virtual home tour, all designed to encourage co-op members throughout the country to take energy-saving steps now. Energy-efficiency videos and an Energy Saving Forum for members wanting to share their own energy saving success stories can also be found along with more information on how you can lower your energy bill.

In addition, finding energy efficiency rebates is another way to save. Wheatland Electric offers a Residential HVAC Rebate Program as an incentive to save on your energy costs. By installing an energy-efficient HVAC system in existing single-family homes that meets all program eligibility criteria and satisfies all installation requirements, you can receive a

rebate check toward your new system.

Wheatland Electric has great material to provide you with tips and tricks on how to save money and energy. Our *101 Easy Ways to Save Energy and Money* brochure located in all our offices can provide you with easy ways to update the lighting in your home, tips on temperature settings for your water heater as well as your HVAC system and information on weatherizing your home. So, take your pick and save your money!

SmartHub is another great tool to help you make smarter energy choices. SmartHub offers co-op members great benefits to help manage your energy usage. You can view your electric usage data down to the hour, see how temperature affects heating and cooling use, compare usage between months with temperature data as well as set usage markers, thresholds and alerts. SmartHub also allows you to receive bill reminders and view all of Wheatland's social media feeds and stay in the know!

## Wheatland Makes Paying Your Bill FAST & EASY!

Receive and pay your monthly bill electronically by signing up for paperless billing.

### If you are not currently signed up for online account access with SmartHub:

- ▶ Sign up for new online account access through SmartHub and complete the required information.
- ▶ Log into SmartHub, click on "My Profile" on top menu, then choose Update My Printed Bill Settings. Click on "Turn off Printed Bills" and choose "Yes" to confirm.

### If you have an existing online account with SmartHub:

- ▶ Log into SmartHub, click on "My Profile" on top menu, then choose "Update My Printed Bill Settings." Click on "Turn off Printed Bills" and choose "Yes" to confirm.

SmartHub also allows members to check their usage, receive notifications and more!

Visit [www.weci.net](http://www.weci.net) for more information.



# Wheatland Electric Bill

- ▶ **Meter** – This is the serial number of your meter.
- ▶ **Days** – The number of days in the billing period.
- ▶ **Prev. Read** – Meter reading from the previous month's statement.
- ▶ **Pres. Read** – Meter reading from this statements reading.
- ▶ **Multiplier** – Some meters are programmed to record energy at a slower rate due to the demand needed. Once the readings are obtained, the usage is increased by the programmed rate multiplier.
- ▶ **kWh Usage** – the number of kilowatt hours of electricity you consumed.
- ▶ **kW Demand** – The maximum rate of electricity consumed over a 15-minute billing interval.



**WHEATLAND ELECTRIC**  
Delivering Energy for Life  
A Toichon Energy Cooperative

101 MAIN  
P.O. BOX 230  
SCOTT CITY KS 67871-0230

District office Phone Number on Back of Bill  
Office Hours Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm CST  
Visit us Online at [www.weci.net](http://www.weci.net)

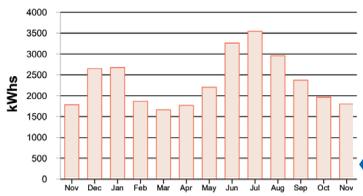
Account Number	Page 1 of 2
<b>BILLING SUMMARY</b>	
Balance From Last Billing	255.56
Payments 12/05/2017	255.56CR
Adjustments	0.00
Delinquent Amount	0.00
<b>Current Charges Due By 01/05/2018 By 5:00PM CDT</b>	<b>241.70</b>
<b>Bank Draft 01/05/2018</b>	

**Pay-By-Phone TOLL FREE NUMBER 1-844-262-2417**

Now you can pay your electric bill at your convenience, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! Pay-By-Phone is the newest of the many options members have for paying their electric bill. To get started you'll need your account number-it's located in the upper right hand corner of your bill.

Location: 170510	Description FARM	Rate: 103-Residential (Rural) (W)	Bill Type: R
Meter	From To	Days	Prev Read Pres Read Multiplier kWh Usage kW Demand
	11/01/2017 12/01/2017	30	41871 43670 1.0 1799 0

**Monthly Usage**



**Current Bill Information**

Service Availability Charge	21.00
Energy Charge.....1799.0 kWh x \$0.1189	213.90
Power Cost Adjustment.....1799.0 kWh x -\$0.004499	8.09CR
Security Light Energy Cost Adjustment	0.13CR
PSLUM - 73 WATT LED UNMETERED (Qty: 1)	9.05
Property Tax Surcharge	1.23
County Tax	4.74
<b>TOTAL CURRENT CHARGES</b>	<b>241.70</b>

**MONTHLY USAGE**

The graph displays a 12-month record of your power use in kilowatt-hours. The graph helps you identify trends in your monthly usage.

Please detach and return this portion with payment

Account Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Statement Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Delinquent After: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Address: \_\_\_\_\_

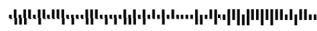
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOTTOM OF YOUR BILL**

The bottom of your bill displays your account number and the current amount due. There is a space for you to note the payment amount enclosed. You can return this bill stub to Wheatland Electric Cooperative in the envelope with your payment. Additional payment options can be found on the back of the bill.

Account Number	
Current Charges Due By 01/05/2018 5:00PM CDT	241.70
Bank Draft 01/05/2018	
Amount Paid	

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2  
101 MAIN  
P.O. BOX 230  
SCOTT CITY KS 67871-0230



**BILLING SUMMARY**

This area displays your account number, balance from your last bill, payments that have been received, any adjustments that have been made, and any delinquent amount. Also, you will find your current charges due.

**BILL INFORMATION**

▶ **Service Availability Charge** – A fixed cost, based on the type of service, which covers all costs associated with providing and maintaining an electrical distribution system. This includes items like poles, wires, transformers, substations, meter testing, buildings and maintenance, insurance, etc.

▶ **Energy Charge** – The kWh charges are for the energy consumed during the billing period. There may be different kWh rates depending on the amount of kWh consumed.

▶ **Power Cost Adjustment** – This is your share of the cost to purchase the necessary power to meet your electric needs.

▶ **Current Bill Information** – will also display any additional charges, such as security light fees.

Wondering what the terms on your Wheatland Electric bill mean? Here's your guide to understanding your monthly statement.

FEBRUARY 2018 ■ KANSAS COUNTRY LIVING 16-C

## Wheatland Awards \$1,000 Sharing Success Grant to St. Francis Community Services

Wheatland Electric recently awarded a \$1000 grant to St. Francis Community Services through its Sharing Success Fund, managed by the Scott Community Foundation.

St. Francis submitted the \$1,000 grant request to supplement with their Christmas for Kids program to help provide gifts for children who are in the foster care system. Saint Francis cares for thousands of children annually during the Christmas season, and these funds helped to ensure that every child in their care receives a gift. Additionally, some of the funds may be used to purchase winter coats for the children. Routinely, children who come into state custody do not have an adequate winter coat.

Wheatland employees were also given the opportunity to participate in the Christmas for Kids program by sponsoring individual children. In all, Wheatland employees sponsored a total of 50 children across Saint Francis' three district offices: Wellington, Great Bend and Garden City.

"This was a great opportunity for us to partner with a local organization and really make a difference on a very personal level. Not only were we able to award a Sharing Success grant to Saint Francis but our employees were able to engage and help to ensure these children had a real Christmas," said Wheatland General Manager Bruce Mueller.

Since 1945, Saint Francis Community Services has been dedicated to the needs of children



Teresa Mazouch, Member Services and Key Accounts Manager, presents the Great Bend St. Francis Community Services office with a Sharing Success grant.

and youth. They advocate for them and work to protect them, doing their best to ensure that every child they serve gets a chance at a happy and fulfilling life. Caring for children through community-based means, they serve more than 10,000 children and families in Kansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas.

The Scott Community Foundation began formally accepting applications for grants from the Wheatland Electric Sharing Success Fund from non-profit organizations on Dec. 1, 2012. The program will continue until the funds are exhausted. Non-profit groups interested in receiving funding from the Wheatland Electric Sharing Success Fund should contact the Scott Community Foundation at 620-872-3790 for more details.



Alli Conine, Member Services and Key Accounts Manager, presents the Garden City St. Francis Community Services with a Sharing Success grant and the gifts area employees collected for the Christmas for Kids program.

## Make a Resolution to Save in 2018

Most people say they want to save money. Do you? The Co-op Connections Card, offered by Wheatland Electric in partnership with Touchstone



Energy, is a money-saving tool that connects members with discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescriptions at participating local businesses and national retailers. You can also find deals for bed and breakfasts, camping, cruises, lodging, points of interest and transportation and travel agencies.

Energy, is a money-saving tool that connects members with discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescriptions at participating local businesses and national retailers.

If you have a trip coming up, make sure to find out how you can save using your Co-op Connection Card by visiting <https://www.connections.coop/category/travel>. You'll save big on hotel stays! Best Western is one of many hotels that are pleased to offer you a special

### Co-op Connections App

Download the free Co-op Connections Card app on your Apple or Android device, so even if you forget your card, you'll be able to save with the app.

The Co-op Connections Card is just one more way you benefit from being a cooperative member. Still need a Connections Card? Contact your local office for more information on how to start saving now with the Co-op Connections Card!

## Get to Know Your Co-op Staff

### Jessica Preisner

Consumer Service Representative  
1 month in Great Bend

#### TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

I have a 14-year-old son named Domonick and a 3-year-old pup named Rio.

#### WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?

Ashland

#### WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

Help my son with his math homework. Just kidding. I like to read.

#### WHAT SPORT OR TEAM IS YOUR FAVORITE?

I like to support any Kansas team.

#### WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE VACATION?

A trip to New Zealand when my brother was on a traveling basketball team.

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK OR MOVIE AND WHY?

Anything by Lee Child is worth reading once, maybe twice. The main character, Jack Reacher, fights for the little guy.

#### IF YOU COULD BE ANY ANIMAL, WHAT WOULD YOU BE AND WHY?

I would want to be a dog. They get the best drive through treats.



Jessica Preisner

## Check Out a New Way to Curb Your Energy Usage

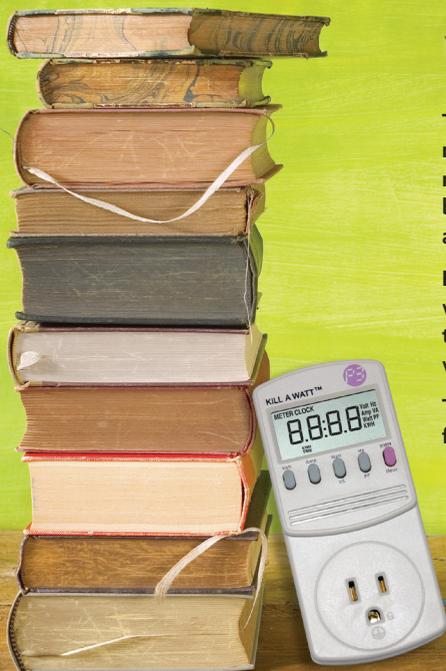
*Borrow a Kill-A-Watt at Your Local Library Today!*

The Kill-A-Watt™ EZ is an electricity monitoring device designed to easily measure how much electricity is being used by your plug-in appliances at home or work.

Find out how much money you would save on your electricity bills by turning them off and being smarter with your home energy management.

The Kill-A-Watt EZ is now available for checkout at your local library.

*You must have a valid library card to borrow a Kill-A-Watt through this program.*



## Happy Valentine's Day



## Get to Know Your Co-op Staff

### Nick Lawson

Apprentice Lineman  
1 month in Garden city



Nick Lawson

**TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.**

I have an older sister and two younger brothers. We all grew up on a farm below Lake Wilson.

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?**

Sylvan Grove

**WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?**

I love hunting and building cars.

**WHAT SPORT OR TEAM IS YOUR FAVORITE?**

Basketball is my favorite sport and K-State is my favorite team.

**WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE VACATION?**

Riding on a train with my dad to Colorado to Grand Lake.

**WHAT WOULD YOUR IDEAL JOB BE?**

Being a journeyman lineman for Wheatland Electric.

**WHAT IS SOMETHING NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT YOU?**

I shot archery competitively.

## SAFETY

### Tip of the Month

The weather can change in an instant and road conditions can deteriorate quickly. Keep an extra emergency kit specifically created for your car. In addition to the basic essentials, consider adding a portable cell phone charger, ice scraper, extra blanket, sand for traction and jumper cables.

## Cooperation Amongst Cooperatives

*Continued from page 16-A* ▶

### Statewide Support

Finally, Wheatland is a member of **KANSAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES (KEC)**. This is our statewide cooperative that represents all Kansas electric cooperatives. This is also the team that represents all electric cooperatives at the Kansas Legislature.

As mentioned last month, in parts of the state our service territory is being eroded by municipal utilities. KEC is introducing legislation that will address this issue. Electric Service Territory Protection legislation will not diminish the opportunity for a municipality to annex land and grow. The legislation is intended to recognize the long-standing promise to serve territory, as determined by the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC).

The proposed legislation will ask for:

- ▶ A voice in the process whenever a municipality desires to change electric service providers to an area it proposes to annex;
- ▶ Fair and reasonable compensation for areas we serve or have been ready, willing and able to serve in our territory;
- ▶ A discussion and opportunity to provide a proposal to serve the territory before the change becomes an agenda item presented to the governing body;
- ▶ A chance to appear before the city governing body to make our case for continued service; and
- ▶ A record of the city's deliberations and an avenue for review and appeal of the city decision.

Each time Wheatland loses service territory, you—the member-owners—are affected. We lose territory that has been in a cooperative's strategic and resource plans since the territories were established.

**By addressing this issue now, we can ensure that you—the member-owner—will continue to receive reliable and competitively priced electric service now and in the future.**

We often have generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure built to serve areas inside that legally mandated service territory.

Worse yet, many times territory takings cherry pick to serve a desired load. Adding that load to the city may have a small benefit to municipal operations but it has a disproportionate impact on an electric cooperative. For the not-for-profit cooperative, adding or retaining members on our system can make a big difference. By addressing this issue now, we can ensure that you—the member-owner—will continue to receive reliable and competitively priced electric service now and in the future.

We will keep you updated as this legislative initiative unfolds in Topeka. Advocating for issues that affect the cooperative is nothing new, in fact we've been doing it for years. We will explain the unique member owned, not for profit cooperative business model and remind the legislators of Wheatland Electric's commitment to its members. To assist us in this effort, we may ask you, for assistance in contacting the legislators that represent you, the membership. Please stay tuned.

So, while you are a member of one electric cooperative (Wheatland Electric), you are connected to many other cooperatives. And being connected to this cooperative network ensures your needs are met in the most efficient and cooperative way possible.

*Until next time, take care.*

# Wheatland's 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting is April 25



Join us and take part in the business of the co-op.

At the William Carpenter 4-H Building  
608 Fairground Rd, Scott City

Wheatland Electric Cooperative's  
**2018 Annual Meeting**

Wednesday, April 25

Registration at 10:30 a.m.

Lunch at 11:30 a.m.

Meeting at 12:30 p.m.

## Stay Back!

Know the difference between types of lines and wires. If you see a downed electric line, be aware that it could be live and dangerous!

### Electric Wire

Electric wires are larger and easily identified by the three separate twisted wires, one being uniquely silver or uninsulated.

### Cable Wire

Cable lines are round and look similar to the coaxial cable that connects to the TV in your home.

### Phone Wire

Telephone wires are typically smaller, flat wires.

On Facebook, search for "Wheatland Electric" and like our page for energy efficiency tips, cooperative news and outage updates.



**Walt Lovins**  
Area Wide Supervisor  
27 years in Scott City

# A DAY *in the* LIFE

BY SHAWN POWELSON

I met **WALT LOVINS** at his office in the Scott City warehouse. When I walked in, he was discussing the plans for the day with the line crew. After receiving my usual dose of good-natured ribbing from the crew,

they headed out, and we walked over to Walt's desk. I asked him what a typical morning looked like for him. He told me most days start like this one—checking in with the line crew, discussing the work planned for the day. After that, he usually works on approving time entry from the previous day and checks his email.

As Area Wide Supervisor, he manages the local line crew and serviceman—four employees in all. In addition, Walt is also responsible for handling service requests. He frequently gets requests for new service or changes to an existing service, most often due to construction of some sort. He showed me an example of a current request he was working on for a local feed yard. The most important step is gathering all the information about the project up-front, which means asking lots of questions. After gathering all the information, he puts together an estimate that includes the materials required, labor involved and any other contributing factors.

"I always try to get as much information as I can, ask lots of questions and then try to come up with multiple scenarios if possible, give them options," Walt explained.

Speaking of projects and estimates, Walt then told me to hop in the pickup, and we headed out to "stake" a new service requested by a local business. The business was expanding and needed electric service to the new building. "Staking" involves placing wooden stakes in the ground to mark the area where the new service will be placed. Walt placed stakes to mark a place for a new pole and another for the anchor wire.

After that, we headed out to the country so he could show me a couple of other projects for which he

was working up estimates. One was to extend service to an irrigation motor and the other was to move a pole so a local farmer could erect a new machine shop. Walt reiterated that anytime he gets a service request, he tries to figure out the best solution for everyone. "What's the most cost-effective? What's best for the member? What's best for the co-op? There's lots of variables," Walt added.

As we headed to our next stop, I asked Walt about the differences and challenges of his new position and how the transition was going. (Walt was recently promoted to area wide supervisor after spending the last 20-plus years as the local line foreman.) He said he's had to learn to be a better communicator, become a lot more organized and must work on keeping everyone that he works with informed.

"There's so much to learn, especially on the computer-side of things, but I've got great support," Walt explained. "The people here are great; they help you, they won't let you fail."

Before stopping for lunch, we made our last stop as we checked on the crew working on a house move. The 25-foot tall house was being moved about 10 miles cross-country to a new location in the small-town of Modoc. The crew coordinated with the movers by moving Wheatland's overhead lines where necessary. Walt had been responsible for determining the route and taking measurements to ensure everything went smoothly. All had gone well. The house had nearly arrived at its destination and the crew was just finishing up their work.

As we ended our time together over lunch, I asked Walt what his favorite part of the job was. "I really like the diversity of the day-to-day work," he said. "No two days are the same. From storm repairs, to line maintenance, to working with the members, I like it all. In my time at Wheatland, I've really enjoyed seeing all the changes. There's some things I never would have imagined, like new technology, staffing changes, all good things, lots of good things."

Thanks for sharing your day with me Walt!

**SHAWN POWELSON**, Director of Member Services and Corporate Communications

