



**WHEATLAND
 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

**Wheatland Electric
 Cooperative, Inc.**

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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
 302 W. 6th
 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

In Case of an Outage

After-hours and emergency reporting call
 1-800-ON AGAIN.

FROM THE MANAGER

Wrapped in Value



Bruce Mueller

is full of excitement, we sometimes miss the magic as we juggle hefty shopping lists, parties, and wrapping up work projects before the end of the year. These tasks can add stress—not joy—to the holiday season. However, those of us at Wheatland Electric Cooperative want you to think of your electric co-op as an early holiday gift wrapped with several layers of value.

As a member and owner of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, you receive several money-saving perks that come in handy at this time of year. Did you know you can save at local and national businesses with your Co-op Connections® Card simply for being a member of Wheatland Electric? So, before you do your holiday shopping, see what kinds of deals are waiting for you at:



connections.coop.

Too busy to stop by our office? You don't need to take time out of your packed holiday schedule to visit one of our offices to pay your bill. Instead, pay online on our website at: weci.net.

But the best co-op value of all can be seen in the faces of your friends and neighbors who work at Wheatland Electric. You can find us volunteering throughout the communities we serve. That's our purpose. It warms my heart to see staff going the extra mile to power our community and make life a bit better for everyone during the holidays.

Avoid getting caught in the hustle and bustle of the season. Take a moment to watch the excitement in the eyes of your children and grandchildren as they count down the days. Then, after gifts are wrapped and meals cooked, take time to look into the faces of those around your table. They are your purpose. The rest of the holiday scramble is just details, and we can help you take care of a few of those.

Merry Christmas!

**Until
 next time,
 take care.**

Hiss Achieves Credentials in Electric Utility Competencies

ROBERT HISS from Wheatland Electric received the Board Leadership certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).



ROBERT HISS

Hiss was recognized at NRECA's Region 7 & 9 meeting in October for his commitment to education and attainment of the Board Leadership certificate in front of more than 750 electric cooperative officials from Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Today's electric utility environment imposes new demands on electric cooperative directors, particularly increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a working knowledge of the cooperative principles.

Wheatland has a commitment to work through Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., and NRECA to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of our electric cooperative members.

Hiss has already received his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate, which requires attendance and demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies contained in five core courses: Director Duties and Liabilities; Understanding the Electric Business; Board Roles and Relationships; Strategic Planning and Financial Decision Making.

The NRECA Board Leadership certificate recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after becoming a CCD. Directors who have attained the Board Leadership certificate have completed 10 credits in advanced, issues-oriented courses.

Scam Alert! Be Aware of Bogus Calls

Wheatland members continue to be affected by scam attempts throughout our service territory.

Recently, Wheatland was contacted by a concerned member who was called after-hours and told that their power would be disconnected if they did not make immediate payment.

During the course of the scam phone call, the scammers told the members that meters were being replaced in their area and that they needed to make a payment of \$320 to avoid an interruption in service.

The member, not realizing this was a scam, made the payment and was then asked to make an additional payment of \$300 to avoid disconnection. After realizing they had been the victim of a scam, the member contacted Wheatland Electric and the local police department to file charges.



Beware of callers claiming to be co-op employees who request bank account routing numbers or other personal information.

Wheatland would like to remind all of our members that we will never perform disconnects after-hours or attempt to collect on a past due account in this manner.

Wheatland Electric encourages its members to always call their local service office directly to verify the authenticity of a caller requesting something out of the ordinary. Never provide personal information over the phone, internet or via email to any person or company without verifying the security and authenticity of the transaction.

Working on the LINE



A Wheatland crew from Great Bend and Sunflower crew worked together to change a structure out near Great Bend. We keep the lights on, no matter how difficult the job.

Wheatland Supports 4-H Electricity Program

Wheatland Electric is a proud supporter of 4-H programs across our service territory. Wheatland has been a sponsor of the Scott County 4-H Electricity program for many years.

Each year, at the annual Scott County 4-H Banquet, Wheatland presents an award to each participant who has completed their respective year in the Electricity program. This year, Wheatland employees Randy Rogers, lineman, and Shawn Powelson, senior member services representative, presented 10 awards to the youth 4-H participants



Randy Rogers, Wheatland Journeyman Lineman, hands out awards to Scott County 4-H members in the Electricity Program.

who completed their respective programs.

Congratulations to all 10 members for completing the 2013 program!

Scott City FFA Places at National Judging Contest

Scott City FFA Chapter won ninth gold at the National FFA Meats Evaluation & Technology competition in Louisville, KY, in October 2013.

Kevin Davis, Advisor from Scott Community High School, as well as the team members' parents are all members of Wheatland Electric.

The team judged pork, beef, carcasses, grading, and answered questions. The team placed ninth overall out of 43 teams. Each individual also placed in the Gold Division.

Besides competing, participants attended career success tours to help focus on areas of interest. The paths were animal systems, agribusiness, food product and processing,



The Scott City FFA Meat Judging team included (from left) Kiersten Scott, Aubrey Davis and Macy Davis. They, along with advisor Kevin Davis, hold their state and national awards. Congratulations!

natural resources, environmental, power, structural and technical, plant and biotechnology systems. Many exhibitors were featured at the convention, as well.

Wheatland Electric congratulates the Scott City FFA Meat Judging team on their success at nationals!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Wheatland Electric wishes our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our offices will be closed December 24-25 and January 1. Have a safe and happy holiday season!



Payment Options

Wheatland Electric Offers Members Several Ways to Pay

The following are the authorized bill payment options available to Wheatland Electric members. Payments by cash, credit card (for residential members only), money order, personal check, certified check or bank draft will be accepted. A fee of \$3.50 will be charged for every credit card transaction. All payments must be in a Wheatland office before 5 p.m. on the Delinquent After Date printed on your billing to avoid late payment penalties.

Drop box: Deposit your payment, including payment stub and check or money order, in the payment drop box at any of the locations listed below or at Scott City Hall, 221 West 5th in Scott City.

In person: Pay your bill at any of our offices in:

- ▶ Caldwell—City Offices, 14 W. Central
- ▶ Crystal's DVDs—111 W. Spring St, Suite B
(Open Tues., Wed. Thurs. & Fri. from 3-9 p.m., Sat. from 2-9 p.m.)
- ▶ Deerfield—City Hall, 622 Main Street
- ▶ Garden City—2005 W. Fulton
- ▶ Great Bend—2300 Broadway
- ▶ Harper—302 W. 6th Street
- ▶ Leoti—N. Highway 25
- ▶ Scott City—101 Main
- ▶ Syracuse—206 ½ Main
- ▶ Tribune—310 Broadway

Mail: Enclose your bill payment stub along with a check or money order and mail in the envelope provided with your bill. Please allow three to five days for delivery.

Online: Visit www.weci.net and click on Online Bill Pay. Sign up for service and enter an e-mail address for receipts. Please make sure we have your e-mail address on file for your electric or internet account.

Phone: Call any Wheatland office to pay by phone.

All other payment options are considered "unauthorized pay agents." Unauthorized pay agents have no contractual requirement with Wheatland Electric to operate under rules approved by the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC). Wheatland Electric provides no assurance as to the timeliness or accuracy of payments made via unauthorized agents.

Wheatland Line Crews Practice Pole Top Rescue

Line crews must practice safety skills to keep themselves and others from harm. One thing they all practice is pole top rescue.

If a co-worker is hurt or unconscious, and hanging from the pole, they depend on their fellow linemen to save them. If needed, it is critical to start CPR in less than four minutes, so the lineman rescuing must be proficient. All safety procedures must be followed by the rescuer, or they could become a victim, as well.

If the pole is wooden, linemen can climb to the top of the pole. They use hooks on their boots, a safety harness, and rubber gloves to protect them from electricity.

During a rescue, a screwdriver can be used to drape a rope over that to control lowering the co-worker. A crossarm can be used for leverage. If the pole is metal, a bucket truck would be used to raise the rescuer up to their injured co-worker.

Wheatland Electric takes safety seriously, for our members and our employees.



Twelve linemen from our Scott City and Leoti offices participated in the pole top rescue training. From left: Quinten Wheeler, Tyler Haney, Randy Rogers, Andy Pollart, Bruce Loy, Levy Unruh, Mark Ladner, Nate Porter, Kelley Burch, Bryan Mulligan, Walt Lovins and Luke West.



Left: The pole top rescue must be performed in four minutes or less, so that the “injured” lineman can get medical attention.

Right: Randy Rogers secures the dummy before lowering him to the ground during the pole top rescue.



Tuan Herrell uses a screwdriver anchor to slowly lower the dummy to safety.



The Garden City crew assembles for a safety meeting before the pole top rescue exercise. From left: Keith McMillan, Brad Thyne, Carlos Pardo, Tuan Herrell, Jordan Habiger, Kreyton Dremel, Logan Mattheyer, Eric Newberry, Chris Oliver and Chris Burnett.