



Nobles' Living Green® and Compact Fluorescent Lighting programs receive national awards

Nobles Cooperative Electric received recognition in the 2009 Spotlight on Excellence national awards program, sponsored by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Nobles received an Award of Excellence in the Best Marketing Communications Program category for "Living Green". The cooperative created the program in an effort to allow members the opportunity to reduce their carbon footprint and make a difference with the environment.

An Award of Merit was also won in the same category for Nobles Cooperative Electric's Compact Fluorescent Lighting (CFL) Program. Members purchased more than 11,000 CFLs, cashing in on the energy savings and instant discount.

"The judges' descriptions of this year's entries ranged from 'extraordinary' to 'impressive,'" said Maggie Tilley, administrator of Spotlight on Excellence. "The consistent comment was that consumers are being well-served by com-

munications that seek to inform and to add value for co-op members."

Participants in the awards competition competed with electric cooperatives of similar sizes in 19 categories. Electric cooperative communicators and marketing professionals submitted more than 744 entries in the "Spotlight on Excellence" Program, now in its 21st year. Faculty members from the University of Missouri – Columbia and the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill judged the entries.

The Spotlight awards competition is an annual event recognizing the top-rated communication and marketing efforts by electric cooperatives and related organizations.

"These programs demonstrate our cooperatives' commitment to community," said Richard Burud, general manager of Nobles Cooperative Electric. "We are involved and committed to our local members. With their support, we have had a positive impact on the environment. While the cooperative appreciates the awards' recognition, our members are the true winners with these programs."

Energy saving tip

Replacing just four 75-watt incandescent light bulbs with four 23-watt compact fluorescent equivalents will save almost \$200 over the life of the bulbs.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy

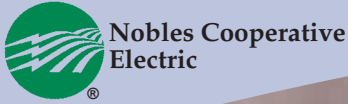
Mark your calendar

August 1 Read your meter
August 10 Electric bills due

Above photo: Ron and Connie Schwartau, Balaton, are participants in the Living Green program.



Thank you to all the members who attended our Annual Meeting and Family Fun Day on June 25. It was an evening filled with family fun and fellowship.



A word from your General Manager by Richard 'Rick' Burud

Annual Meeting recap

Thank you for attending your Annual Meeting on June 25 at the Murray County Central High School Gym and Murray County Fairgrounds. For those not in attendance, we reviewed the following: Summary of 2008, 2009 goals, along with possible impacts of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) global warming legislation now being debated. We also enjoyed a panel discussion consisting of the board president, our power supplier (Great River Energy) and Nobles' management team. They discussed the key decisions made in their department that effect the membership.

You may ask, why have an Annual Meeting? Well, like any local, democratically-controlled cooperative we must elect director representatives, as well as inform our members on the "key" items that will likely effect our future. This process is key to an informed and progressive cooperative in times when the energy future can change quickly.

Thank you to all those who participated. Your cooperative will continue to work with you to meet your electric needs now and in the future.

Conserve energy when the need is critical

When the temperature rises in the summer, the demand and price of electricity can climb along with it. Great River Energy can declare Critical Peak Pricing (CPP) times to avoid purchasing energy when the demand is critical.

During CPP times, the price of energy may be up to three times higher. Typically, CPP can occur on the hottest days of the summer. They can not exceed 40 hours in 2009. These events are determined by researching weather forecasts, historical daily energy use and forecasted member demand. CPP times encourage our members to use less energy or shift their energy usage to non-CPP times when it is most expensive.

Nobles issues CPP alerts on these radio stations: KJOE-FM 106.1 — Slayton, KISD-FM 98.7 — Pipestone, K101-FM 101.1 — Luverne, KWOA-AM 730, K095-FM 95.1 and KITN-FM 93.5 — Worthington.

This is the message that will be broadcasted: "Nobles Cooperative Electric has issued a critical price alert for their members in Nobles and Murray Counties. Members are asked to help reduce a critical peak load tonight by postponing the use of electrical devices from noon until 10 p.m. There is no shortage of power, however tonight's critical peak and longer control period means electricity costs to your local cooperative will be up to three times higher for its members. Postponing the use of electrical devices this evening will help control your electric rates. This is a critical price alert from Nobles Cooperative Electric."

By conserving energy for just a few hours, you can help Nobles avoid expensive energy purchases and hold down the cost per kilowatt-hour that every member pays.

Your cooperative would like to thank you in advance for your efforts in reducing your electric use during critical demand times.

Farmfest FREE CFL Coupon

The power to make a difference is in your hands.

We can help!

Nobles Cooperative Electric, along with other electric cooperatives, will be participating in Farmfest 2009.

Bring this coupon to Farmfest (Booth #2301 in the Ag Tent) on August 4–6 and we will give you a FREE compact fluorescent light bulb. All we ask is that you install it.



Operation Round Up recipients received funds at the Annual Meeting

The Nobles-Murray Rural Electric Trust Board awarded these local organizations grants at the Annual Meeting and Family Fun Day in Slayton on June 25.



The Trust Board will meet again in October to determine the next funding of recipients. Please submit your Operation Round Up (ORU) applications by September 4. Interested organizations can call Nobles at 507-372-7331, 507-836-6107 or visit our website at www.noblesce.coop for an application.



Scholarships awarded to local graduates

Eight high school seniors were awarded \$500 scholarships by the Nobles-Murray Rural Electric Trust Board. Graduating high school seniors applied for their scholarships based on the district that they reside in. Each recipient will receive their scholarship check issued jointly to the student and the school after successfully completing one semester or quarter of higher education.

The scholarships were awarded to:
District 1: Seth Swenson, son of Douglas and Ginny, Balaton;

District 2: Mark Bau, son of David and Suzanne, Slayton;

District 3: Jake Smith, son of Lona, Brewster;

District 4: Andy Henning, son of Dave and Nan, Fulda;

District 5: Megan Bosma, daughter of Rodney and Ronnie, Rushmore;

District 6: Benjamin Haberman, son of Pat and Doreen, Brewster;

District At-Large: Craig Correll, son of Gary and Kristine, Brewster;

District At-Large: Alex Busch, son of Tom and Darcy, Brewster.

Nobles Cooperative Electric has a strong commitment to providing scholarships to area high schools. These scholarships are funded through the Operation Round Up program. Seniors graduating in 2010 who reside on Nobles Cooperative Electric's system may apply in March 2010.

Organizations received funds

Adrian Elementary School	\$400	Junior Achievement of Murray County	\$320
Community Christmas Baskets	\$400	Kindergarten Connection	\$325
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library	\$250	Manna Food Pantry	\$600
Friends of the Auditorium, Inc.	\$300	Murray County DAC/ Fulda DAC	\$250
Girl Scouts	\$200	Murray County Food Shelf	\$600
Graham Lakes Braves 4-H	\$325	Nobles County DAC	\$350
Historic Dayton House	\$300	SW MN MS Support Group	\$200
Hospice of Murray County	\$350	Trinity Pre-K	\$375
International Festival	\$375	United Way	\$200



It is home improvement season, but not everyone can afford improvements. For low-income members that qualify, there's help — call 507-376-4195.

Households with incomes at or below 200 percent of the national poverty level are eligible for the federal Weatherization Assistance Program.

Qualifying income levels

Family of One	\$21,660
Family of Two	\$29,140
Family of Three	\$36,620
Family of Four	\$44,100
Family of Five	\$51,580

Do you qualify for federal WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE?

If so, you could receive \$6,500 in energy-saving upgrades to your home!

Employment changes at the cooperative



Line Sub-Foreman

Journeyman Lineman Steve Lange, a 34-year cooperative employee, was promoted on May 13. Steve accepted the position as Line Sub-Foreman in Murray County.

Steve is very familiar with the procedures and goals of Nobles Cooperative Electric. His years of experience and past history are an asset as he moves into his new job.

He replaced Gary Eich who retired in February of this year.

In his spare time, he enjoys riding his Harley and camping with his wife, Linda, and their grandkids.



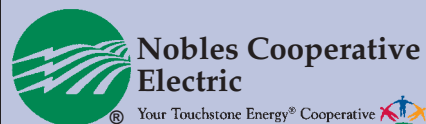
Apprentice Lineman

Cody Hansen began his career at the cooperative on May 11. He was hired as an apprentice lineman at the Slayton office.

Hansen is originally from Madison, South Dakota and graduated on May 8 from Mitchell Technical Institute with a degree in Power Line Construction and Maintenance.

"I am excited to join the crew in Slayton and I hope for a great career."

In his spare time, Cody enjoys baseball, football, other outdoor activities, such as hunting turkey, pheasant and goose, four-wheeling and biking.



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Gopher State One-Call

800-252-1166

WildBlue tech support

888-326-4289

Electrical inspectors

Murray County
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Nobles County
Scott Preuss - 507-449-8870

General Manager

Richard G. Burud

Board of Directors

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Richard Greve, V. President - 376-5026
Ronald Schwartau, Sec./Treas. - 734-3052
David Clarke, Director - 425-2646
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Country Cupboard Bacon Ranch Potato Salad

3 lbs. small red potatoes	6 slices of bacon, cooked crisp and crumbled
1/2 c. mayonaise	1/2 c. chopped celery
1/4 c. ranch dressing	1/2 c. chopped sweet onion
1 tsp. kosher salt	1/4 c. chopped red bell pepper
1/2 tsp. pepper	1/4 c. chopped green bell pepper
1/8 tsp. garlic powder	1/4 c. wedge-cut black olives

Steam or gently boil red potatoes (skin on) in salted water until tender but not mushy. Drain and let cool. Cut into 1-inch chunks. In a large bowl, whisk together mayonaise, ranch dressing, salt, pepper and garlic powder until combined. Add potatoes, bacon, celery, sweet onion, bell peppers and olives. Toss gently until well-combined. Refrigerate the salad at least 4 hours or overnight for flavors to blend. Yields: 16 servings or about 8 cups.

Send your favorite **recipe with peaches as an ingredient** to Nobles Cooperative Electric, ATTN: Tracey, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187-0788. Entries must include your name, address, telephone number and Nobles' location number. All entries must be received by July 13. The winning recipe will be featured in the next edition of *Current Matters* and the winner will receive a **\$10 credit** on their electric bill.