


Touchstone Energy® kids
Tate Tromblay; Taylor; Kailee
and Megan Haberman.



Nobles Cooperative
Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Responsive to our members' needs

Your cooperative is committed to you. Your ideas are helping us provide you with state-of-the-art technology and service. That is our way of conducting business — with reliable electric service, enhancing our members quality of life and meeting your needs.

Our first obligation is you. You can stop by the office in Worthington or Slayton and talk with someone you know about your service. When you call Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE), you'll speak to someone who knows your community and what is happening in it.

There will always be someone you can count on to talk to regarding any aspect of your service. Just consider where we live. At first glance it may not seem like there is any connection between the school kids waiting for their bus and a NCE line crew, but look again. The line crews working on your electric service probably have kids waiting for their school bus alongside your kids. NCE is connected to our members, our neighbors and businesses by much more than power lines.

We understand that paying atten-

tion to details is important. We keep your best interests at heart and look for ways to help improve the quality of life for our membership.

NCE accomplished many tasks for the benefit of our member-owners in 2009. Many projects were completed during the year to enhance customer reliability. The projects completed helped to improve service reliability. In addition, we deployed new systems for truck radios and an outage management system that allows us to better manage field communications, improve operational efficiencies, reduce outage durations and enhance safety for field personnel.

We are responsive to your needs. Whether it is for a new substation to serve a new business or a new program or product to make life easier for our members, NCE will always be connected to you.

NCE offers several innovative programs that reduce rates, simplify billing, enhance the safety and convenience of electricity and support the communities of about 4,900 members in Murray and Nobles Counties.

Your cooperative will continue to work for your best interests!

Energy saving tip

Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy

Mark your calendar

December 25 Merry Christmas!

January 1 Happy New Year!

Remember to read your meter

Our offices will be closed Dec. 25 & Jan. 1, crews will be on call for outages.

January 11 Electric bills due



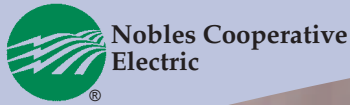
Manager's message



Do your part in conserving energy



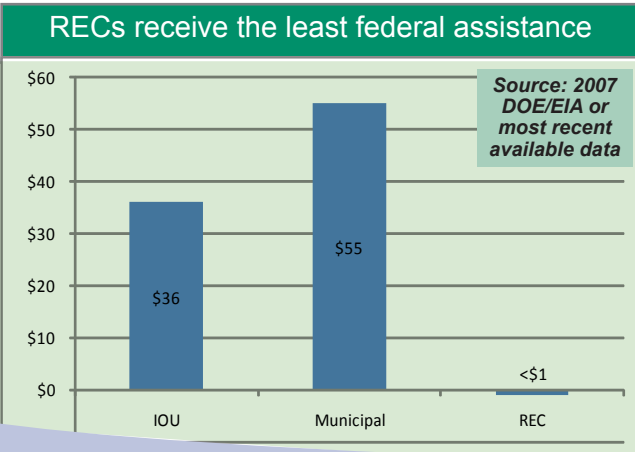
Tamper resistant outlets



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

As I write my column, turkeys are in the stores and harvest is in full swing. Last month things were looking bleak for our farmer-members, but with two weeks of great drying weather, soybeans are mostly out of the field and the corn harvest is in process. We've been monitoring the loads and know the corn dryers are operating at full speed ahead. NCE has had no shortage of power and we are proud to meet your electrical needs during this busy time.

2009 is going to end up being a great year for your cooperative. We will have adequate margins, with most of our work plan projects put in service. The year reflected lower



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A Dialogue With America

U.S. Senators are drafting legislation NOW. We need your help. Go to www.ourenergy.coop.

sales than predicted year-to-date, but with the dryer loads we'll probably be real close to those predictions. The good news is our wholesale costs were less, so the power cost adjustment to you was less than we predicted, therefore costing you less for your electric needs.

As we enter 2010, look for us to promote more energy-efficient or energy-wise appliances and devices to help you use what we sell very efficiently and wisely.

Lurking in 2010 will be climate change legislation. We'll surely need your help in getting the "message" of affordability, a fair allowance market and method to make sure the environment is the recipient of any investment by you, the member.

NCE available to respond to power concerns



Stray voltage, or neutral-to-earth voltage, produces a tiny electrical shock that is felt by animals in contact with milking, feeding or watering equipment. It occurs when there is a measurable voltage difference between two points that can be contacted simultaneously by animals. Stray voltage is often suspected as contributing to changes in animal behavior, milk production and herd health.

Stray voltage may be due either to physical factors in the cooperative's power supply system or as the result of on-farm conditions or attributed to a combination of factors.

Only professional testing can absolutely identify stray voltage sources. A wide range of symptoms have been associated with stray voltage, those same symptoms can sometimes be the result of other non-electrical causes. NCE has trained professionals to research and correct stray voltage issues. If you suspect you may have a stray voltage problem, contact us at 507-372-7331.

Electrical shocks experienced by members in or around the home are not caused by stray voltage. They generally are attributed by faulty equipment or wiring. In this case, an electrician should be contacted to fix the problem immediately.

All electric utilities receive federal subsidies in one form or another. Calculations based on federal government financial reports show that rural electric cooperatives receive the least amount of subsidy per consumer. This is in spite of the fact that RECs serve only seven consumers per mile of line compared to 35 for IOUs and 47 for city-owned utilities.

Nobles is seeking director nominees to serve on NCE's Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee will be selected by the Board of Directors according to Article II, Section 1 of the Bylaws of the Association (available upon request). They will nominate members of Nobles Cooperative Electric to run for director election at the March 27, 2010 Annual Meeting.

At this year's Annual Meeting, one director will be elected from District Three (3) and one director from District Five (5). District Three (3) includes the Townships of Shetek, Holly, Murray, Dovray, Lime Lake, Des Moines River, Bondin and Belfast of Murray County; Township of Monroe of Lyon County; Township of Springdale of Redwood County; Townships of Ann, Westbrook and Rosehill of Cottonwood County; all in the State of Minnesota. District Five (5) includes the Townships of Westside, Olney, Dewald, Grand Prairie, Little Rock and Ransom of Nobles County; Townships of Magnolia and Kanaranzie of Rock County; all in the State of Minnesota; and Townships of Midland and Elgin of Lyon County; all in the State of Iowa.

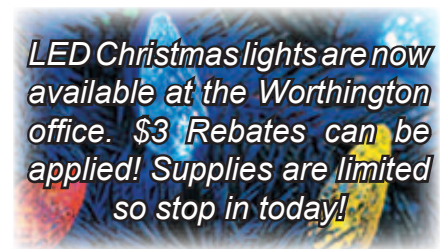
If you are a member residing in District Three (3) or Five (5) and would like to be considered as a director nominee for the district in which you reside, please contact Julie Baumgard prior to **December 15, 2009** at:

Nobles Cooperative Electric
22636 U.S. Hwy. 59
P.O. Box 788
Worthington, MN 56187-0788
Phone: 507-372-7331 or 800-397-4592
E-mail: jbaumgard@noblesce.com

HOPE	SHELLBURNE	ROCK LAKE	CLUSTER	MONROE	SPRINGDALE			
AETNA	ELLSBOROUGH	SKANDIA	LAKE SARAH	SHETEK	HOLLY	ANN		
1		CAMERON	LOWVILLE	MASON	MURRAY	DOVRAY	WESTBROOK	
2		BURKE	CHANARAMBIE	LEEDS	SLAYTON	LIME LAKE	DES MOINES RIVER	ROSEHILL
OSBORNE	MOULTON	FENTON	IONA	BONDIN	BELFAST			
BATTLE PLAIN	LEOTA	WILMONT	BLOOM	SEWARD	GRAHAM LAKES	LA CROSSE		
VIENNA	LISMORE	LARKIN	SUMMIT LAKE	ELK	HERSEY	ALBA		
MAGNOLIA	WESTSIDE	OLNEY	DEWALD	WORTHINGTON	LORAIN	EMWINGTON		
KANARANZIE	GRAND PRAIRIE	LITTLE ROCK	RANSOM	BIGELOW	INDIAN LAKE			
MIDLAND	ELGIN			HORTON				



For many people the demands of work and family leave little time for leisure. With busy lives, who has time to deal with a water heater that needs frequent attention and replacement? Today, when people look for reliability and durability — they choose Marathon water heaters.



Put energy conservation at the top of your list of New Year's resolutions

We all need to do our part to keep our cooperative's costs down. Conserving energy not only lowers our own individual bills, it also lowers demand.

Lowering demand is an effective way to control climbing costs. That is why NCE continues to help our members with energy conservation ideas and tips.

This winter, save money and stay warm. Keep your energy bill low this winter by taking a whole-house approach to heating. During

the heating season, keep the draperies and shades on your south facing windows open during the day to allow the sunlight to enter your home and closed at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable when home. By resetting your programmable thermostat from 72 degrees to 65 degrees for eight hours a day (for instance, while no one is home or while everyone is tucked in bed), you can cut your heating bill by up to 10 percent.

Check the insulation in your attic, ceilings, exterior and basement walls, floors and crawl spaces to see if it meets the levels for our area.

There is no need to spend a lot of money to save a little energy. There are many things you can do to make it easier on your piggy bank.

This New Year, become more aware of conservation methods and apply them to your energy consumption. Remember, we are all in this together.

Invest in safety with tamper resistant outlets

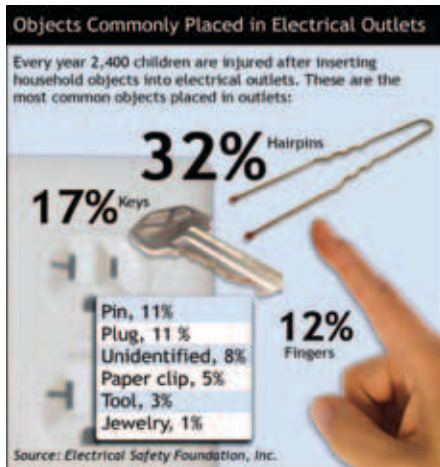
Hairpins, the building blocks for many fancy “dos,” are perfect for holding back unruly tresses. But these metal objects are also easy for children to manipulate.

Each year, approximately 2,400 children—an average of seven a day—receive emergency room treatment for injuries caused by inserting conductive material into electrical outlets, according to a 10-year report released by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). More than 70 percent of these incidents occur at home, with adult supervision typically present.

Hairpins are involved 32 percent of the time, followed by keys, 17 percent, and fingers, 12 percent. Other common culprits include pins, screws, nails, twist ties and paper clips.

The end result? About 95 percent of the time children receive a burn, according to CPSC. Though ranging in severity, a significant number of serious and fatal burns occur. Pediatric burns can be particularly serious, because a child’s skin is thin and offers little resistance to electric flow or heat.

The danger of electrical outlets isn’t new; parents often use plastic outlet caps to cover outlets when “child-proofing” a home. Unfortunately, the Electrical Safety Founda-



tion, Inc. (ESFI) claims plastic caps are not the safest option since they can easily be removed by a young child. Instead, ESFI suggests installing tamper resistant outlets.

These types of outlets include a shutter mechanism to protect against harm from inserting foreign objects. The spring-loaded system only allows electricity to flow when you apply equal pressure to both sides of the outlet, as happens when you plug in an electrical device. During unused conditions, both shutters are closed.

Tamper resistant outlets may already have been installed in newer homes; the 2008 National Electrical Code requires them. These outlets are cheap—costing as little as \$2 at some retailers—and can easily be incorporated into older homes.

Source: *Electrical Safety Foundation, Inc., U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission*

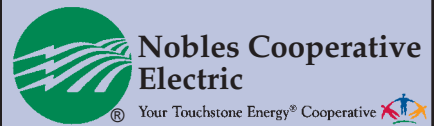
Country Cupboard Easy Made Candy

- 2 c. sugar
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 1 c. cream (half and half is okay)
- 3 T. cocoa

Cook to soft ball stage and then add 2 tablespoons of butter, 1 teaspoon vanilla and 1 cup of nuts. Beat until thick. (This was always cooked in a cast iron fry pan when I was a kid.)

Send your favorite **muffin** recipe 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 January 15. 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.

Annabelle Frakes
Luverne



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Phone: 507-836-6107

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Monday through Friday

24-Hour outage service

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Gopher State One-Call

800-252-1166

WildBlue tech support

888-326-4289

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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
Lee York, Sec./Treas. - 879-3497
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Dick Ruitter, Director - 443-5891
Ronald Schwartau, Director - 734-3052
Gary Sieve, Director - 926-5455