

# Current Matters



Nobles Cooperative  
Electric

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

September 2022  
Vol. 14 Issue 9



## Cooperatives handle the heat

*The electric system is designed to provide all the energy members need, even during the hottest times of the year*

This summer you may have heard news about a shortage of electricity in the Midwest or concerns about the stability of the electric system. While it was true that there was less surplus energy than we typically have, the Midwest electric system still had nearly 8% more electric generating capability than required to meet the expected demand.

In Minnesota, the situation is even better. All utilities in our state, including our main power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE), have more electric generating capacity than required. (12-28-52) As expected, the electric system performed reliably throughout the summer season, keeping members cool and comfortable even during prolonged heat waves.

When service interruptions do occur, they are typically due to weather events resulting in physical problems with the system, and not a lack of planning for adequate supply. As the electric industry continues to transition to more renewables and we face the impacts of more extreme weather events, GRE is focused more and more on resiliency.

In emergency situations, the re-

gion's grid operator calls on additional power supply resources, imports energy from other regions and performs voluntary load reductions to manage the electric system.

GRE plans power supply resources 15 years in advance to ensure we have what we need to serve members. Every spring, GRE performs detailed maintenance on their fleet of natural gas and fuel oil powered "peaking" power plants in preparation for response to the peak needs of the system. These plants can produce electricity in a matter of minutes when needed.

GRE methodically designs, plans and operates a system of transmission lines that can handle high heat and elevated electricity demand. They work with your cooperative to reduce electricity use during strategic times to provide relief to the electric grid and ultimately save members money.

As a member of Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE), you are served by GRE's diverse and flexible portfolio of resources to ensure you have the energy you need, all year round.

## Energy saving tip

Our faucets and appliances use a lot of hot water. You can lower your water heating costs by using less hot water in your home. Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills. To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified.

*Source: Dept. of Energy*

## Mark your calendar

Sept. 30 ..... Electric bills due

Oct. 10 & 12.....Grab-N-Go Drive Thru

*(See details on page 4)*

## September Auto Pay Winner Ellsborough Town Hall!

Take a minute to sign up for Auto Pay and you may win a \$25 bill credit. A winner is chosen each month.

## Spot your location number

If you find your location number (as it appears on your monthly electric bill) in this issue, you will receive a \$10 credit.



Manager's Message



EV event an  
electrifying success



Grab-n-Go Member  
Appreciation Days



## Driving behind farm equipment: Do your part



**General Manager  
Adam Tromblay**

Fall harvest is a busy time. Farmers have big equipment and implements on the road. Navigating roadways can be dangerous for farm equipment operators and auto drivers who follow behind them.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 410 farmers and farm workers died from work-related injuries in 2019. Transportation incidents, (504-38-131) which included tractor over-turns, were the leading cause of death for these farmers.

Follow these safety tips to stay safe.

### Equipment operators

1. Make sure all lights are operational.
2. Drive as far to the right side of the road as possible when going around a curve.
3. Pull over and allow vehicles to pass when traffic builds up behind you.
4. Take care at railroad crossings.
5. Avoid traveling during busy traffic times.
6. Be mindful of the height and width of machinery, watching power lines, bridges and other hazards.
7. Along with turn signals, use hand signals.
8. Do not drive when you are too tired or hungry.
9. Keep a first-aid kit in case of accidents.

### Auto drivers

1. Think about how long it will take to get to your destination and add extra time for busy farm roads.
2. Give farmers plenty of room on the road. If a piece of equipment takes up the entire road, pull into a driveway and wait for them to pass.
3. When passing, be sure you do so in a passing zone and that there is clear vis-

ibility around farm equipment.

4. Go slow. Farm operators often stop or turn into fields. In addition, cars going at or over the speed limit can catch up to farm machinery quickly, since farmers in equipment move slowly.
5. Do not assume that a farmer can move over in narrow areas; it is not always possible.
6. Honk or motion when passing farmers, they may not see you or know you are there; their equipment is big and noisy.
7. Do not tailgate; the farmer often cannot see you.
8. Do not pass and then slow suddenly in front of equipment with implements behind it or farm trucks full of grain. They cannot stop quickly.
9. Farmers make very wide turns; give them plenty of time and room.

These are a few tips to make it safer for both the equipment operator and auto driver.

For information about safety around electricity, (32-23-34) visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



**Your local electric cooperative,  
a community of teamwork**

# NCE celebrates a successful EV event held on August 10

A very warm August evening didn't stop members from learning more about electric vehicles (EVs) and taking a test drive.

The event, held August 10 at the Windom Community Center, helped raise awareness of the many benefits of EVs and allowed time for attendees to talk with EV owners about their experiences. Approximately 60 test drives were held in two hours, allowing people to see for themselves the convenience and quiet and solid ride that an EV brings. Most of the test drives were from people that had never driven or ridden in an electric vehicle before.

The event (28-4-5) was sponsored by Nobles Cooperative Electric, along with neighboring cooperatives; Brown, Federated, Redwood and South Central, together with Great River Energy.

Six electric vehicles were on display:

- Tesla S Plaid (red)

- Tesla S Plaid (white)
- '22 Rivian R1T
- '18 Chrysler Pacifica
- '22 Chevy Bolt
- '20 Hyundai Kona

Three vehicles were available to test drive:

- F-150 Lightning
- Chevy Bolt
- Kia Niro PHEV

Participants had the opportunity to have their questions answered by a number of EV enthusiasts while enjoying a burger or ice cream treat from Lingen Dairy's food truck. Everyone also received a complimentary bag of kettle corn.

This event was held to provide communities with an opportunity to learn more about and experience electric vehicles.



We're celebrating Co-op Month in a BIG way

## 3rd Annual Grab-n-Go Drive Thru Member Appreciation Days

**October 10**

4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

22636 U.S. Hwy. 59 - Worthington

**October 12**

4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

1505 20th Street - Slayton

### Grab-N-Go Meals

Members can drive up and pick up a to-go meal (pork burger, chips, cookie and water) distributed by a cooperative employee.

### Prizes

Each vehicle receives a free rain gauge. Share your Grab-N-Go photos on NCE's Facebook page for your chance to win a \$25 electric bill credit.



This is a great opportunity for farmers. Pick up your Grab-N-Go bags to take to the field!

Please bring this form filled out to Member Appreciation Days on October 10 or 12

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

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Location No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

*This form allows your entry to NCE's Grab-N-Go Drive Thru event.*

## Country Cupboard

### Grilled Cabbage

Set grill temperature between 390 and 425 degrees. Clean and cut cabbage head into wedges. Place each wedge on a small piece of aluminum foil. Add 1 T. butter, salt and pepper to each wedge. Roll in aluminum foil and grill for an hour. Turning at the 1/2 hour mark. Cabbage will be slightly burnt on the edges. (30-16-33)

If you do not want to grill, you can chop up cabbage and cook in a pan on the stove by melting butter into bottom of pan, add salt and pepper. I use a cast iron pan and cook until the cabbage edges are slightly burnt.

Send your favorite **potato recipe** to Nobles Cooperative Electric, ATTN: Tracey, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187-0788. Entries must include your name, address, telephone number and NCE location number. All entries must be received by September 25. 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.

**Kathy Henderschiedt**  
Worthington



**Nobles Cooperative Electric**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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### Website

www.noblesce.coop

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7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday

### 24-Hour outage service

800-776-0517

### Gopher State One-Call

800-252-1166 or 811

### Electrical inspectors

Murray County

Randal Maha - 507-274-5261

Nobles County

Austin Kurtz - 651-368-3021

### General Manager

Adam Tromblay

### Board of Directors

Ronald Schwartau, President - 734-3052\*

Lee York, V. President - 879-3497\*

Cindy Hokeness, Sec./Treas. - 478-4965\*

Jerry Beckering, Director - 227-4074\*

Timothy Bickett, Director - 605-670-5294

Gary Clarke, Director - 605-201-1903

David Dorpinghaus, Director - 605-695-7816

\*Telephone prefix 507

### Next Board Meeting

October 13, 2022

*This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

