

Current Matters



Nobles Cooperative
Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



May 2021

Vol. 13 Issue 5

Lessons learned from owning an electric vehicle (EV) *February's polar vortex was especially tough for EV owners*

NCE has seen firsthand what the Tesla has to offer since its purchase in 2019. Estimates show that driving electric costs about half as much as it does to drive a traditional internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle. **Here are some of the other benefits of owning a Tesla:**

- Electricity prices are not only cheaper than gasoline, they are also more stable.
- EVs are better for the environment.
- EVs require minimum maintenance. A Tesla has only 18 moving parts compared to an ICE car that has 2,000. Tesla

actually travels to you for any maintenance that can't be done locally.

- A federal tax credit may be available up to \$7,500.
- They are super quiet. Quieter than you realize. You can listen to your music without turning it up too loud, but be careful—some pedestrians can't even hear you coming down the street.
- Electric cars are so much fun to drive and they react quickly. A Tesla accelerates from 0 to 60 in 3.5 seconds.
- EVs are digitally connected and offer all the technology bells and whistles,

cont. on page 2

Energy saving tip

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause your air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Source: www.energy.gov

Mark your calendar

May 25 **Electric bills due**
May 31 **Memorial Day**
Our office will be closed. Linemen will be on call for outages.

Find your location number and win a \$10 credit

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

Auto Pay winner Hubert Sandmann

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



Cost of Fueling-Up vs. Charging-Up



TRADITIONAL
VEHICLE

@\$2.50/gallon
for regular gasoline

10-gallon tank cost \$25.00 to fill
In an internal combustion engine sedan at 30 mpg

\$25.00 takes you 300 miles



ELECTRIC
VEHICLE

@\$.10/kWh
approx. current NCE rate

75 kWh battery cost \$7.50 to charge
With a Tesla, a full charge will take you 310 miles

\$7.50 takes you 310 miles



Manager's Message



Living Green plants
growing by leaps and bounds



2021 NCE
Board of Directors



NCE's experience owning a Tesla cont. from page 1

from a digital screen to live traffic updates and autopilot.

- There is no (1-36-46) lack of storage space in a Tesla. It has a trunk in the back and a frunk in the front.
- The car has improved handling on snow and ice-covered roads.
- EVs are ideal for commuters.

Although, the positives outweigh the negatives, we still have to report on the disadvantages of owning a Tesla or an electric vehicle.

- Charging and supercharger (Tesla) speeds vary with the number of vehicles charging at the same time and at different temperatures. It takes a longer time to "fill" your vehicle up, compared to five minutes at the gas pump.
- Driving an electric vehicle also requires some patience and practice. EVs are built with regenerative brakes which allow the vehicle to function with single pedal driving. When the driver lifts their foot off of the accelerator, the car will decelerate quickly. The abruptness can be disorienting at first.

February's extreme weather was

especially tough for EV owners. To test the efficiency of the Telsa during the polar vortex, General Manager Adam Tromblay drove the Tesla and this is his account of the events that took place.

"After finally getting over my range anxiety, it came roaring back after a cold weekend with the Tesla.

The Tesla had 285 miles on the battery when I left the office Friday evening. I arrived home and intentionally left the Tesla outside. It was -5 degrees or so that night. The car used 30 miles of range sitting overnight.

The next day I took the car to Sioux Falls, which is about 65 miles from home, arriving with less than 30 miles of usable range. At that point, I had driven it between 110 to 120 miles. I charged the car at the supercharger and it (516-37-109) charged at over 275 miles per hour. The car ran at 65 to 70 percent efficiency for the rest of the day as temperatures warmed up.

On Sunday, with colder temperatures, we decided to take the car to Estherville. It had full range when we left the house, but due to the colder temperatures and my range anxiety I

hit the supercharger in Worthington. After 45 minutes the supercharger had added only 30 miles, but I felt good enough about the range so we jumped in and hit the interstate running at 70 mph. It didn't take long for us to notice that the range was dropping and the efficiency was at 45 to 50 percent. With no superchargers in site, we got off of the interstate so we could at least make it back to Worthington. At 60 mph and -11 degrees it was 63 to 65 percent efficient. The vehicle was so cold on our way back home (-13 degrees) that our feet were frozen and the windows were completely frosted over. However, the seat warmers worked well in the front.

Range anxiety is real! The range of efficiency is what gives me anxiety. During extreme temperatures, there is no way to do any simple math and feel good about how far you can go.

I don't plan on taking the Tesla out in a polar vortex again anytime soon."

With these concerns, should you avoid an EV? Absolutely not! They are still the cleanest, most economical and enjoyable form of transportation on the roads today.

Get smart about electrical safety. May is National Electrical Safety Month.



Living Green and loving it!

We are excited to announce our new and improved Living Green hydroponic gardening system has arrived and the plants are growing quickly and abundantly. You wouldn't believe the difference a day can make with the growth we are seeing. Looks like we will be harvesting soon!

After much anticipation, NCE's new Living Green hydroponic gardening system has arrived. Its arrival on April 16 brought improvements in the shed's design and functionality and a (4-15-65) fresh new perspective to our gardening efforts. The area food shelves will be reaping the benefits!

Here are some of the initial improvements we are seeing between the two shed designs:

- New filtration system
- A visual indication of the flow of water through the shed
- New inserts for larger plant germination and growing
- One tank vs. two
- Water leak sensor
- New flooring and tray design
- Dehumidifier drains directly into the water tank
- Visual gauge on water tank
- Alarm light outside of shed to indicate any water leaks
- More LED lights
- Improvements have allowed for more open space in shed
- Built in crop supports

The future looks bright and ripe for an abundance of lettuce, cilantro, kale, tomatoes and cucumbers!

Tiny donations make huge impacts locally

Operation Round Up distributed \$10,650 in April

The generosity of NCE members continues to have an amazing effect (28-54-6) on local communities. Even more astounding is the fact that tiny donations, an average of only 50 cents a month, are making these huge impacts locally. That's over \$399,000 since the program began in 2001!

April 2021	
Organizations awarded	Amount
Chandler Quilters	\$ 325
Good Shepherd Lutheran Quilters	400
Lake Sarah Quilters	350
Balaton Fire Dept.	950
Lake Wilson Fire Dept.	1,600
Slayton Fire Dept.	1,150
SW Central Service Cooperative	875
WonderWorld Preschool	2,000
Brewster Senior Dining	1,000
Nobles County Historical Society	500
United Way of SW MN	1,500

The latest round of donations also included "Luck of the Draw" \$650 scholarship winners:

- Keegan Fey - Edgerton
- Ashley Hellewell - Balaton
- Ethan Swenhaugen - Currie
- Jena Joens - Wilmont
- Gerrit Bos - Rushmore
- Madison Schaefer - Worthington
- Christina Henson - Fulda
- Ryley Thraen - Iona

Your 2021 NCE Board of Directors

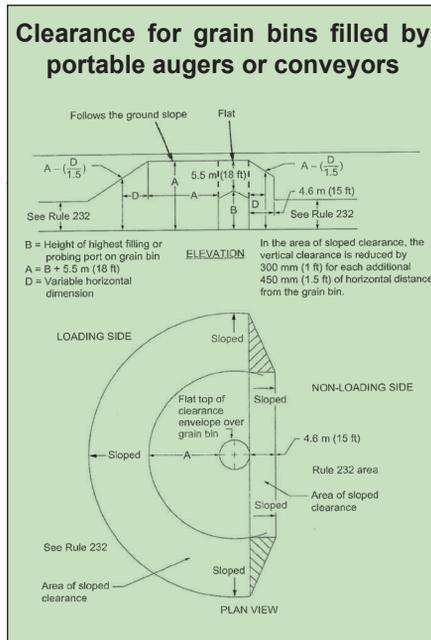


Front row: Secretary/Treasurer Cindy Hokeness, Director Gary Clarke and Director David Dorpinghaus. Back row: Director Timothy Bickett, President Ronald Schwartau, Director Jerry Beckering and Vice President Lee York.

Plan ahead for proper grain bin clearance

Farmers who are planning to install a new grain bin can save time by including NCE in their planning process. The cooperative will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. Placing grain bins in the proper (37-19-66) location is extremely important. Adequate clearance with power lines can reduce the risk of an accident occurring. The National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) specifies the line clearance required for grain bins and electrical needs.

NCE urges you to contact Line Superintendent Brian Postma prior to construction or remodeling. In order for us to be cost-effective and meet your needs on time, we need as much advance notice as possible.



Country Cupboard Slow Cooker Crack Chicken

- 3 lbs. boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 6 slices bacon cooked and crumbled
- 2 packets dry ranch seasoning
- 1 c. cheddar cheese
- 2 - 8 oz. cream cheese
- chopped green onions for garnish

In a slow cooker add the chicken to the bottom. Sprinkle dry ranch seasoning. Top with cream cheese. Cover and cook on low for 6-8 hours. Shred the chicken with two forks. Top with bacon and sprinkle with cheese. Cover until melted and serve on buns or over rice.

Send your **rhubarb 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 May 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.



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22636 U.S. Hwy. 59
P.O. Box 788
Worthington, MN 56187-0788
Phone: 507-372-7331,
507-836-6107 or 800-776-0517

Website

www.noblesce.coop

Email address

nce@noblesce.com

Summer office hours

7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday
May 1 - Sept. 30

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
Scott Preuss - 507-430-3652

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

June 10, 2021

This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

