

Current Matters



Nobles Cooperative
Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



October 2020
Vol. 12 Issue 10

Cast your vote on November 3

Electric cooperatives' top priority is providing members with safe, reliable and affordable energy. But this job requires more than stringing and maintaining power lines. It requires political engagement. That may seem far removed from our core mission, but it's absolutely essential to the services cooperatives provide.

That's why electric cooperatives in Minnesota and across the country are participating in Co-ops Vote, a nonpartisan program that encourages all cooperative members to participate in national, state and (32-28-105) local elections. The program also aims to educate political candidates and elected officials about the important role electric cooperatives play in their local communities.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service organization representing the nation's electric cooperatives, launched Co-ops Vote in 2016. Co-ops Vote started as a national get-out-the-vote initiative that helped drive rural voter turnout.

As cooperatives, the civic virtue of voting is in our DNA. We show concern for community—one of the seven cooperative principles—through participation in our democracy.

Cooperatives have another advantage. Elected officials and decision-makers across the political spectrum trust us because of the work the electric cooperative family has put into political engagement. When we all get involved, we can make things happen politically and in our local communities.

We know Election Day may look a little different this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and that's why we're encouraging all cooperative members to stay engaged and informed of any changes to polling locations or absentee and mail-in balloting procedures.

Voting is central to American democracy. We hope you will commit to cast your ballot on November 3. To learn more about the upcoming elections and access resources that can help you stay informed, visit www.vote.coop.

Energy saving tip

The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12% of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR®-certified products, which can be 70% more efficient than conventional models.

Source: www.energystar.gov

Mark your calendar

Oct. 25 Electric bills due
Oct. 31 Happy Halloween!
Nov. 1 Daylight savings time ends
Nov. 3 Election Day
Nov. 11 Veterans Day

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.



2 Manager's Message

3 \$10,000 Grant supports local communities

4 Thank you for a successful blood drive



General Manager
Adam Tromblay

“concern for community.” To me, this principle is the essential DNA of Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE), and it sets us apart from other electric utilities.

October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we “Power On.” NCE plays an essential role in serving a special community like ours.

Who would have fathomed in March, that the (18-26-7) COVID-19 virus would amount to a test of our community and our nation? The changing circumstances due to the pandemic have created both challenges and opportunities. Over the past several months, we’ve all been challenged to operate differently, and NCE has stepped up to help our members and strengthen the safety net for our more vulnerable neighbors.

We’ve seen other local businesses rising to meet similar challenges during this time, because that’s what communities do. I’m heartened to see how everyone is pulling together.

In 1936, NCE was built by the community to serve the community, and that’s what we’ll continue to do – Power On.

Be safe during harvest

We all want the best for the people in our lives—our family, friends, community and others. That includes you, our members.

With harvest season well underway, a number of factors, including heavy equipment, moving parts, long hours and fatigue are common this time of year. These factors make agriculture one of the most dangerous occupations. Take the steps needed to ensure the safety of yourself and others.

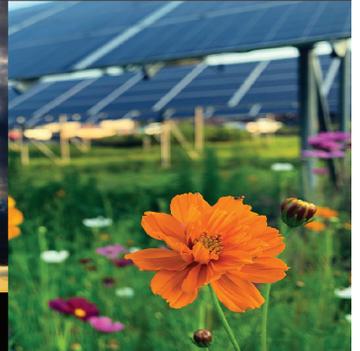
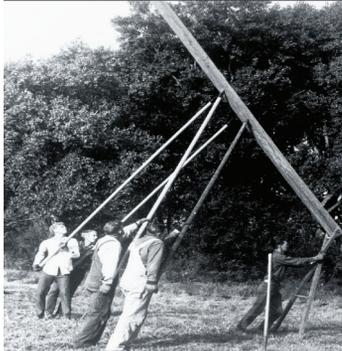
Harvest season also means more (539-37-035) farm traffic. It means we all need to be extra cautious this time of year, whether we are harvesting or just driving to work and see a farmer hauling grain. Let’s be vigilant when driving our roads.

Here’s to a safe and successful harvest for everyone!

Power On: October is National Co-op Month

Our top priority is to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the members we serve. Because we are a cooperative, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our local community—and this mission has never been more critical than in recent months. One of the seven principles that guides all cooperatives is

Then. Now. Always.
We’re proud to power your life.
October is National Co-op Month.



#PowerOn



Sharing Success grant awarded to Nobles County Emergency Management

Helping improve CPR quality on the move and for long durations

Local fire chiefs and other emergency medical services (EMS) professionals have created an ad-hoc committee to learn from one another. A recent concern was identified during a meeting involving medical events which take ambulances out of the area.

Ambulance services have to transfer patients and that can take them out of our service area for six or more hours. That creates mutual aid situations where neighboring ambulance services are called to answer calls which may create response delays and leaves rescue squads to render care until the ambulance arrives. If it's a cardiac call requiring cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), the response delays can create concerns. The rescue squad members may be required to maintain CPR longer. CPR created fatigue can occur very quickly and chest compressions become less effective with time.

A LUCAS device assists crews by performing mechanized chest compressions. A team of personnel is not required to stand over the patient (creating COVID concerns). The LUCAS device batteries can last until the ambulance arrives. It increases the possibility for the patient to survive the event.

The Mutual Aid Association's goal is to supply a LUCAS device for every participating rescue team. NCE and CoBank assisted the Mutual Aid Association's effort by offering a collective grant award of \$10,000. That money will be used as a source to equip those rescue squads with a LUCAS device. NCE and CoBank's (5-5-52T) grant will enhance EMS services within Nobles County. Everyone involved with the Mutual Aid Association of Nobles County is appreciative for that funding.

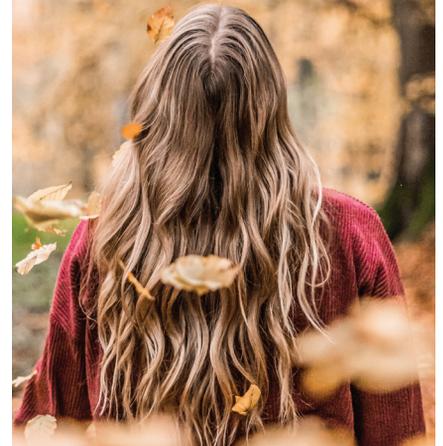
The annual "Sharing Success" grant opportunity, capped at \$10,000, is made possible by NCE, in partnership with CoBank—a national nonprofit cooperative bank owned by the rural American cooperatives it services, including NCE. The matching grant program is designed to celebrate the vital role that cooperatives play in individual communities across the country.

Pictured above: General Manager Tromblay and Nobles County Deputy Administrator/Emergency Manager Bruce Heitkamp.

October Auto Pay winner

Clifford Shreiner

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




Military personnel payment arrangements

Minnesota law provides that a public utility must not disconnect the utility service for nonpayment of a residential member who has been issued orders into active military duty, for deployment or for a permanent change in duty station, provided that they enter into an agreement with the utility to make payments towards their bill. Forms are available from the cooperative.



Thank you for a successful blood drive!

We would like to thank all of the donors and volunteers who helped make this event possible on September 28. When we work together we can do great things! Your donation is truly appreciated by the blood recipients, their loved ones, all of us at NCE and the Community Blood Bank.

Last chance to get your energy efficiency rebates in by November 15

Helping members become more energy efficient is important to us. That is why NCE offers many valuable incentives for members to take advantage of. It is important to note, items must (516-38-280) be purchased in 2020 and installed on NCE's lines to be eligible for a rebate.

Residential rebates

- Replacement of refrigerator or freezer with recycling of old unit
- Electric clothes dryer
- Dehumidifier
- Ground Source Heat Pump
- Air Source Heat Pump
- Cycled Air Conditioning

Business and agricultural rebates

- Lighting
- HVAC
- Ventilation
- Compressed Air Systems
- Plus, so many more opportunities
- Agricultural
- Food service
- Motors

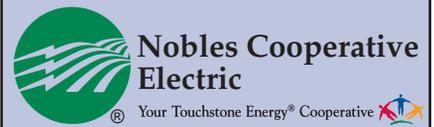
Country Cupboard Breakfast Sausage

Jan VanOort
Fulda

5 lb. freshly ground pork 1 1/4 tsp. dried marjoram
 5 tsp. dried sage 2 1/2 T. brown sugar
 5 tsp. salt 1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
 2 1/2 tsp. black pepper 1/8 tsp. ground cloves

Mix spices well, then with your hands, mix well into the sausage. Form into 20 or 30 equally-sized balls, then flatten to 1/2" thickness. Fry both sides at medium high heat until browned. Freeze on cookie sheets, then pop into freezer bags. Reheat in the microwave in a covered glass dish at power level 5 until hot.

Send your favorite recipe with **pumpkin** in it 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 October 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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 Monday through Friday
 Oct. 1 - April 30

24-Hour outage service

800-776-0517

Gopher State One-Call

800-252-1166 or 811

Electrical inspectors

Murray County
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 Nobles County
 Scott Preuss - 507-430-3652

General Manager

Adam Tromblay

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 Lee York, V. President - 879-3497*
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 Bruce Barber, Director - 329-2991*
 Jerry Beckering, Director - 227-4074*
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*Telephone prefix 507

Next Board Meeting

November 10, 2020

This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

