

May 2011 Volume 56 Number 3



Norris

ELECTRIC NEWS MAGAZINE

2011
IRRIGATION
SCHEDULE

PREPARE FOR
POWERFUL
SPRING
STORMS

contents

NORRIS ELECTRIC NEWS

"Dedicated to Serving You"

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THE NORRIS PUBLIC

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Events Calendar Information

Please plan to submit event information two months in advance. We reserve the right to limit ads based on space availability. Please send events to: communityevents@norrispower.com or fax to 402.228.2895

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NORRIS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT CONTACT NUMBERS

Main Office – Area III

Beatrice: 402.223.4038

Toll Free: 1.800.858.4707

Hours: M–F 7:30 AM–4:30 PM



Area I

Hebron: 402.768.6515

Toll Free: 1.800.827.8099

Hours: M–F 8:00 AM–4:30 PM

Closed each day from
12:00 PM–12:30 PM

Fairbury: 402.729.3835

Area II

Roca: 402.423.3855

Toll Free: 1.800.743.3899

Hours: M–F 7:30 AM–4:30 PM

Crete: 402.826.2517



NEW EMPLOYEE

Brian Pospisil joined the Norris District on April 25 as a Maintenance Technician in the Energy Delivery Services Department. Brian grew up in the Wilber area and graduated from Wilber-Clatonia High School in 1997. Brian received an Electrical Technology degree in 1998 from Southeast Community College in Milford and has worked the past ten years as an electrician for the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Brian and his wife, Jennifer, live in Cortland and in his spare time he enjoys playing sports, hunting and fishing. Please join us in welcoming Brian to the Norris District!

Norris Public Power District Automatic Telephone Dialing System Courtesy Call Information

Norris Public Power District will perform courtesy calls to customers regarding account information at the direction of the customer. Courtesy calls may be made for various reasons, including when an account becomes past due or as a reminder that a customer needs to read their meter. The courtesy calls will be made by an automated dialing device to the cellular or landline phone number provided by the customer, if written consent is granted by the customer. Customers may provide written consent by completing this form and returning it to the Norris offices. If a customer does not provide written consent, the courtesy calls will not be made. Customers may rescind their courtesy call consent in the future by contacting one of the Norris offices.



Automatic Telephone Dialing System Written Consent Form

☐ **Yes,** I would like to receive courtesy phone calls from Norris Public Power District regarding past due balances, meter reading reminders, planned outages, or for other District related business.

____ (customer/organization) and _____ (spouse/co-resident/business owner) hereby give express written consent to the Norris Public Power District or its assigns to be contacted via a phone call for courtesy calls regarding the account listed. I understand courtesy calls may be made for various reasons, including if my account becomes past due or as a reminder that I need to read my meter. I understand these courtesy calls will be made by an automated dialing device to the cellular or landline phone number listed herein or as later updated.

Account Name

Account Number

Telephone Number

Signature

Date

Please return completed form to:
Norris Public Power District,
P.O. Box 399, Beatrice, NE 68310

2011

Irrigation Season

Norris Public Power District provides the following irrigation rate schedules:

Full Service, Anytime Interruptible, Four Day Interruptible and Standby.

In 2011, capacity charges for rate 13 and 14 customers are now divided evenly between the spring and fall.

In prior years, capacity charges for these customers were all billed in the spring. Please keep this in mind as you plan for your fall expenses.

The average irrigator on the Anytime Interruptible rate schedule will pay 43% and 25% less than if they were on the Full Service and Four Day Interruptible rate schedules, respectively. **If you are considering a change to your existing rate class, please contact the District immediately as certain restrictions may apply.** The table below on the left provides a three-year average of District irrigation information. Please note the projected 2011 change in irrigation costs for the average irrigator. The rate increases were developed from our cost of service study and are driven by a 9.7% wholesale power rate increase in 2011 from Nebraska Public Power District.

Rate 10 Full Service

Available to motors of all sizes

Spring Capacity Charge: Due April 15
\$26.75 per horsepower

Fall Capacity Charge: Due November 20
\$26.75 per horsepower

Energy Charge: Due November 20

First 500 kWh per H.P. 11.55 cents per kWh
Over 500 kWh per H.P. 7.60 cents per kWh

Non-Operating Relief: The fall capacity charge shall be reduced by \$8 per H.P. for customers consuming less than 5 kWh/H.P. during the irrigation season.

Rate 12 Standby

Capacity Charge: Due April 15
\$12.50 per horsepower

Non-connected: Service maintained so it will be available the following season.

The District must receive a request for standby irrigation service in the form of the District's standard application for service by **April 15** of the year for which standby service is desired. This application shall cover only one year with subsequent applications being required for additional years. If a customer wishes to change

3 Year Averages (2008 through 2010):

	Rate 10 Full Service	Rate 13 Anytime Interruptible	Rate 14 Four Day Interruptible
Number of Meters	533	707	172
Total Horsepower	8,317	42,731	10,009
Average H.P./Meter	16	60	58
Total Kilowatt-hours	2,531,871	14,569,184	4,495,768
Average kWh/Meter	4,750	20,607	26,138
Average kWh/H.P.	304	341	449
Energy & Capacity Charges			
2010 Rates	\$1,268	\$2,911	\$4,237
2011 Rates	\$1,404	\$3,182	\$4,678
Dollar Increase	\$136	\$271	\$441
Percent Increase	10.7%	9.3%	10.4%

to Irrigation Schedule 10 (Full Service), 13 or 14, such customer shall pay the difference between the capacity charges of Rate Schedule 12 and that of Rate Schedule 10, 13 or 14.

Rate 13 Anytime Interruptible

Available to motors 20 H.P. or greater

Spring Capacity Charge: Due April 15
\$10.63 per horsepower

Fall Capacity Charge: Due November 20
\$10.63 per horsepower

Energy Charge: Due November 20

» **First 500 kWh per H.P. 9.25 cents per kWh**
Over 500 kWh per H.P. 6.20 cents per kWh

Power available on holidays, plus guaranteed minimum of 11:00 PM to 9:00 AM Sunday through Saturday. Customer will be notified each day prior to 9:00 AM as to whether any operations will be allowed from 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM. No services will be interrupted more than six (6) hours on Sunday or twelve (12) hours on any other day or more than seventy-two (72) hours in any one calendar week. Interruptions are made only on days when peak power levels are being exceeded. The District, at its discretion, may interrupt service during operating hours normally allowed if the District's power supplier requests emergency control.

Rate 14 Four Day Interruptible

Available to motors 20 H.P. or greater

Spring Capacity Charge: Due April 15
\$19.30 per horsepower

Fall Capacity Charge: Due November 20
\$19.30 per horsepower

Energy Charge: Due November 20

» **First 500 kWh per H.P. 9.35 cents per kWh**
Over 500 kWh per H.P. 6.35 cents per kWh

Operating Schedule: Customers may choose between either Schedule 1 or 2. The District reserves the right to assign the customer to either Schedule 1 or 2.

Schedule 1: Power available all day on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and holidays. Power guaranteed at a minimum from 11:00 PM to 9:00 AM on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Power is available for a minimum of eighteen (18) hours on Sunday.

Schedule 2: Power available all day on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and holidays. Power guaranteed at a minimum of 11:00 PM to 9:00 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. Power is available for a minimum of eighteen (18) hours on Sunday.

No services will be interrupted more than twelve (12) hours in any one day Monday through Saturday. No services will be interrupted more than six (6) hours on Sunday. The District, at its discretion, may interrupt service during operating hours normally allowed if the District's power supplier requests emergency control.

Notification of Load Control Days and Early Release Occurrences

The District offers four communication options for our customers to receive information regarding load control days and times. These notices will generally run from June 15 through September 1.

Option 1 – Website

You can access this information on our website, www.norrisppd.com, by clicking on "Load Control" on the left hand side of the page. **The webpage is updated first and has the most current information.**

Option 2 – E-Mail Service/Text Message

Customer notification by e-mail and text message is available. The District will be sending messages throughout the summer with daily load control information. To sign up for this service, send an e-mail to comments@norrispower.com.

Option 3 – KRVN Radio – 880 AM

KRVN radio will announce load control information daily at 8:29 AM. Code Red will mean a control day and Code Green will mean no control for the day. Norris will be identified as one of the power districts for whose customers the message is intended. There will be six spots reserved in the late afternoon and evening in the event we have been given an early release by Nebraska Public Power District.

The reserved times are 4:59 PM, 5:59 PM, 6:59 PM, 7:59 PM, 8:59 PM and 9:59 PM. If an early release is given for any of the power districts who participate in these announcements, KRVN will announce the particular power district to which it pertains. We will restore power as soon as possible following an early release announcement.

Option 4 – Irrigation Hotline

The District provides an "Irrigation Hotline," which will provide more detailed information regarding expected control times within a particular day. The message will be updated as necessary from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. **The "Irrigation Hotline" telephone numbers are 402.228.2840 and 800.858.4708.**

UNLAWFUL USE OF SERVICE OR METER TAMPERING AND LOAD CONTROL BYPASSING

A. Meter Tampering: In any case of tampering with a meter installation or interfering with its proper function or any other unlawful use or diversion of service by any person, or evidence of such tampering, unlawful use or service diversion, the customer and/or the other persons shall be subject to immediate discontinuance of service and/or to prosecution under applicable laws. For bypassing, tampering or unauthorized metering as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. 25-21,275 to 25-21,278, the District may pursue any or all civil or criminal statutory or common law remedies. The District shall be entitled to collect from the customer the appropriate rate, for all power and energy not recorded on the meter by reason of such unlawful use or diversion, plus all expenses incurred by the District on account of such unauthorized act or acts. The estimated usage will be based on the two previous years plus taking into account weather conditions, additional equipment and operation patterns for the period in question. If William Bundy of Waverly would please call the Area 2 – Roca office we will arrange to have a serviceman deliver your new clock radio.

B. Load Management Irrigation Control

Tampering: It is the customer's responsibility to have read and understand this policy. The District reserves the right to attach a "no-tampering" notice to the customer's control panel.

Irrigation customers are prohibited from making any change in the District's load management equipment, or to their own equipment, which will cause the District's load management system to fail to interrupt the connected load when desired by the District. Customers are considered to be responsible for any action taken by their employees, service personnel, or other agents in which the same result occurs.

State law states that there shall be a rebuttable presumption that a customer at any premises where bypassing or tampering with the District's load control equipment is proven to exist caused or had knowledge of such bypassing or tampering if the customer controlled access to the part of the utility supply system on the premises where the bypassing or tampering was proven to exist. In other words, the end use customer is assumed responsible for any tampering until proven otherwise.

If conditions are observed which indicate the irrigation customer has violated this rule, the customer shall be notified by letter of the following action.

1. If discovered during the irrigation season:
 - A \$50/H.P. penalty will be billed for the current season and the customer will be required to remain on the interruptible rate.
 - The penalty must be paid within 10 days or the service will be disconnected.
 - The customer will be given seven (7) days to request a hearing with the Board to show why those actions should not be taken.
 - Charges will be assessed for damage to District's equipment and for re-establishing load interruption capabilities of the equipment.
 - The District reserves the right to relocate the load controller to the point of customer disconnect at the customer's expense.
2. If discovered prior to irrigation season (October 1 through March 31):
 - Charges will be assessed for damage to District's equipment and for re-establishing the load interruption capabilities of the equipment.
 - Repairs and/or corrections required must be made prior to June 15, or load management rates will not be allowed that year.
3. Tampering – repeat offense:

The customer will be advised by letter of action to be taken consistent with the guidelines above for "prior" or "during" the irrigation season. The letter will also advise the customer that the Board has reviewed the details of the suspected tampering and impose further restrictions which may include the following:

 - Ineligibility for a load management rate for additional years.
 - Denial of load management rates on other services in the customer's name.
 - Requirement to pay any unpaid construction charges.
 - Requirement to prepay or provide a deposit sufficient to cover all operation costs in future years.

The Board will be provided with a complete report of the repeat tampering.

stop theft

METER TAMPERING:

PLEASE HELP STOP ELECTRICITY THEFT

Mark VanSkiver, Norris Public Power District Manager of Safety and Area 1 Operations Supervisor



Every year, electric utilities across the country cope with energy theft—people who deliberately tamper with their electric meter to steal power. Not only is this practice extremely dangerous, it's a serious crime that could result in legal action, a bad credit rating, and the potential loss of electric service.

Over the last year, Norris Public Power District personnel have inspected all of our electrical services. During our inspections, a number of meter theft incidences were found. These cases involved consumers who interfered with the operation of a meter (diverted the flow of electricity from going through the meter) to lower or avoid paying electric bills.

Stopping energy theft is important for all of us because, eventually, it costs all electric consumers money. It's something that the Norris District takes very seriously. The Norris District seals meters for two reasons. First, the seal protects the consumer by making the meter off limits. Secondary voltage of 120/240 kills more people than any other voltage. Only a trained, authorized serviceman should cut the seal on the meter or remove it. Even an experienced electrician must get permission from the Norris District before removing the meter seal. The second reason the meter is sealed is to prevent tampering with the meter's proper functioning.

"We've seen people do some dangerous things to get around paying for the power they use," explains Mark VanSkiver, Norris Public Power District Manager of Safety and Area 1 Operations Supervisor. "However, not only are these persons stealing from other consumer owners of the Norris District, they're also risking their lives and those of our workers."

According to the Cooperative Research Network, a division of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, power flowing through a compromised meter can cause an electrical catastrophe. A short circuit could produce an arc flash bright enough to cause blindness and powerful enough to launch

fragments of red-hot shrapnel-like debris. Serious injury or death from electrocution, explosion, or fire can result from meter tampering. Only trained Norris Public Power District personnel wearing protective clothing should work on meters.

"Anytime you get into a meter socket, you run a risk," comments VanSkiver. "With an arc flash, somebody could get killed or seriously hurt."

Electricity theft is not a victimless crime. Norris Public Power District loses revenue and expends resources to investigate tampering. These costs are then passed on to the entire customer base of the Norris District. National estimates vary, but The Washington Post cited revenue protection officials who claim between \$1 billion and \$10 billion worth of electricity is stolen from utilities annually.

The Norris Public Power District service regulations state that "in any case of tampering with a meter installation or interfering with its proper function or any other unlawful use, or diversion of service by any person, or evidence of such tampering, unlawful use or service diversion, the customer and/or the other persons shall be subject to immediate discontinuance of service and/or prosecution under applicable laws." The Norris District will not tolerate theft of electricity and meter tampering.

Keep in mind the Norris District watches your use of electric energy closely. If your usage pattern changes or is outside of usual limits, our computer system alerts Norris staff, and a technician is sent to investigate.

Customers who steal electricity are not only stealing from Norris Public Power District; they are stealing from you, your friends, your neighbors and the other 18,000 Norris customers we serve. **Since everyone pays for lost power, please let us know if you suspect meter tampering. Call Norris Public Power District at 1.800.858.4707 to report possible theft of service. All information can be given anonymously.**

L5 YOUTH RANCH

FIFTEEN HANDS OF THERAPY INSPIRE HORSES AND CHILDREN TO HELP AND HEAL

Apache was so crippled the children could not ride him. But child after child would pick this horse over others to groom and work with even though they knew it meant no riding.

"When you have a painful past and you can be involved with healing someone with the same pain, it helps you heal," Matt Langston, one of the ranch founders, said. "These kids share a lot with the horses—abuse, neglect and apathy. Kids feel that if they can help an animal as big and strong and intelligent as a horse, maybe they can help themselves."

The L5 Youth Ranch sits on 112 acres of scenic rolling wooded countryside east of Sprague. It is operated by Matt and Daisy Langston and was opened the summer of 2006. The ranch provides a sanctuary for rescued horses and kids that are struggling with disabilities and domestic issues. Children are given the opportunity to ride the horses once a week to help them learn responsibility and give them a safe and supportive place to spend their time.

Most of the horses at L5 Youth Ranch have been rescued from abusive situations. Some were seized with help of law enforcement personnel; some were rescued either by humane societies or by approaching negligent owners directly. The ranch works with new horses for a few months each to help them heal, while also observing their behavior. Some may eventually work with children; others are rehabilitated and placed in new homes.

The ranch is open from May through October. Kids typically come out once a week and spend two to three hours at the ranch each time they visit. The ranch tries to have one adult counselor matched up with each child when they arrive. They pair up and do 15 minutes of chores before they start working with the horses. The chores include grooming and brushing the horses, as well as cleaning their hooves. Eventually the youth learn to bridle and saddle them before they are able to begin riding.

L5 Youth Ranch lets the children decide when they are finally ready to ride the horses.

They begin working in a round pen where they learn non-verbal cues and how to control the horses using body language. It takes on average about two months for them to learn to direct the horse from the saddle.

"We just see how it goes and guide them as they need it," Matt said. "Lots of kids have plenty of people talking at them already. The most important thing is to listen."

Parents note that for many kids, the ranch offers therapy that surpasses any other available options. The kids seem more relaxed, less anxious and more content and confident when they are at the ranch.

"When we're working with a horse, we are focused on helping the horse and it makes it easy for kids to open up and talk about school, talk about





"The kids that come here may not even realize we're faith-based," Matt said.

Sessions with Matt or Daisy are available by appointment, and are free of charge. If you are interested in making an appointment for an at-risk child, offering a good home to a horse, or to report a horse in need of help you can reach Matt at 402.525.9963 or Daisy at 402.525.9964.

The ranch is supported entirely by donations, private gifts and the Langston's own funds. To learn more about how you can help the horses or children at the L5 Youth Ranch, call or visit them online at www.L5YouthRanch.org.

what's bothering them; it's just a really good time for them to open up," said Matt.

One of the main benefits the ranch can offer families is that it's free for children to attend. There's no cost to the kids or their families. The only requirement to be welcomed at the L5 Youth Ranch is a willingness to learn.

It took over five years for Matt and Daisy to plan and save enough money to open the ranch. They were tossing around the idea of opening a ranch when they ran across a similar place in Oregon that sounded exactly like what they were envisioning. They went to Oregon to visit the facility and learn all they could about opening one of their own back in Nebraska.

Matt and Daisy both have full time jobs and run the ranch simply as a volunteer effort. Matt is a station operator at Nebraska Public Power District's Sheldon Station power

plant and Daisy is a medical recruiter. The L5 Youth Ranch is a faith-based organization, but the religious aspect is not emphasized.



Matt Langston (black hat) and Daniel Patterson give Mouse a good brushing.

When Planting Trees,

Norris Public Power District Encourages You To Consider Powerlines!

Planting trees is an enjoyable activity for every active homeowner or gardening enthusiast. However, when deciding what type of tree you'll plant, please remember to look up to see where the tree will be located in relation to overhead utility lines.

The ultimate mature height of the tree to be planted must be within the available overhead growing space. Just as important, the soil area must be large enough to accommodate the particular rooting habits and ultimate trunk diameter of the tree. Proper tree and site selection will provide trouble-free beauty and pleasure for years to come. Checking the location of electric, phone and cable lines is an important part of this process.

Planting tall growing trees under and near these lines will ultimately require your utility to prune them to maintain safe clearance from the wires. This pruning may result in the tree having an unnatural appearance. Periodic pruning can also lead to a shortened life span for the tree. Trees that must be pruned away from power lines are under greater stress and are more susceptible to insects and disease. Proper selection and placement of trees in and around overhead utilities can eliminate potential outages, public safety hazards, reduce expenses for utilities and their rate payers, and improve the appearance of landscapes.

Don't Forget Underground Utility Lines

Tree roots and underground lines often co-exist without problems. However, trees planted near underground lines could have their roots damaged if the lines need to be dug up for repairs. The biggest danger to underground lines occurs during planting.



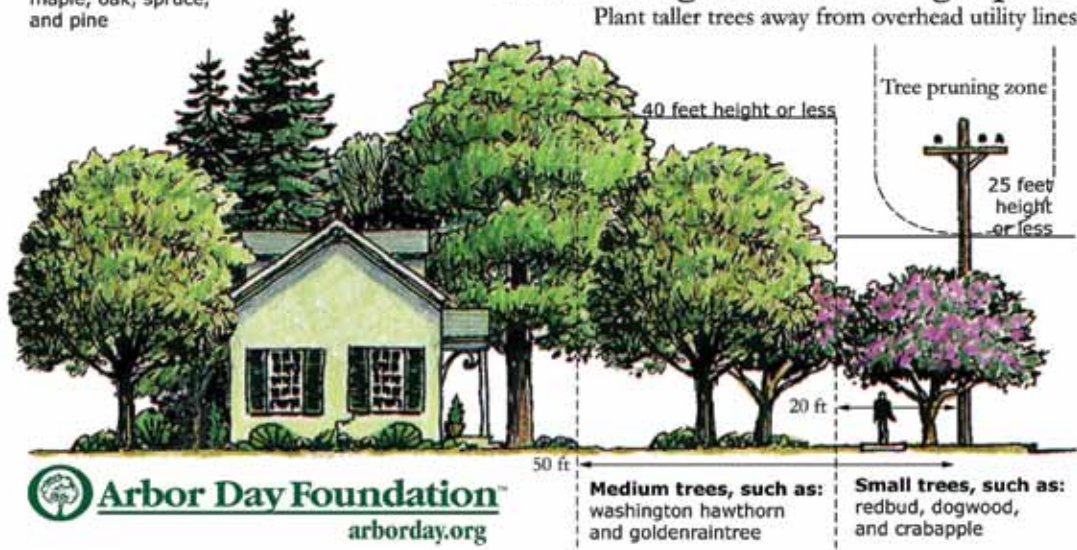
**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Before you plant, make sure you're aware of the location of any underground utilities. Never assume that these utility lines are buried deeper than you plan to dig, because in some cases, utility lines are very close to the surface. To be certain you don't accidentally dig into any lines and risk serious injury or a costly service interruption, call the Digger's Hotline of Nebraska 48 hours before you dig. You can contact them at 1.800.331.5666, dial 811, or visit www.ne-diggers.com.

Tall trees, such as:
maple, oak, spruce,
and pine

Plant the right tree in the right place

Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines



PREPARE FOR POWERFUL SPRING STORMS

With

pleasant spring temperatures at our doorstep, severe weather is on its way. Storms can spring up at a moment's notice, and the last place you want to be is outside. In order to properly prepare for severe weather, it is important to know these tips before a storm hits:

- If you plan on leaving your home for extended periods of time, check the forecast before you head out
- If you know a storm is coming and you have to leave a sheltered area, take an AM/FM radio with you to stay updated on storm conditions
- If you have neighbors who need special assistance such as the elderly, infants, or people with disabilities, be courteous and check on them

If you hear that your county or those nearby are in a Thunderstorm Watch, it means that a thunderstorm with damaging winds, hail or lightning may develop in your area. At this point it is important to pay attention to local media weather updates. Unplug all electronic devices not plugged into a surge protector, as lightning can damage your electronic devices if it strikes your home. Stay away from electrical outlets, appliances, computers, and stop playing video games.

If

the storm status is upgraded to a Severe Thunderstorm Warning, seek indoor shelter immediately. The safest place is the basement, but stay away from concrete walls that contain metal rebar. Follow these steps during a Severe Thunderstorm Warning:

- Do not take a bath or shower
- Avoid driving through puddles of water. Flash floods can bring mass amounts of water in minutes
- Stay away from large bodies of water
- Move to a sturdy building or car

If you happen to be outside without shelter, find a low spot on the ground to take cover. Make sure you choose a spot that is away from trees, fences, power lines and poles. If the area contains many trees, take shelter beneath the smallest one (there's less risk of it being struck by lightning).

After a storm, remember to stay away from downed power lines, and treat every downed wire as if it is active. It is always smart to have an emergency preparedness kit incase the power goes out or you need to administer first aid. A proper kit should include the following items:

- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Portable battery operated radio
- Cell phone with charger
- Emergency food and water
- Non-electric can opener
- Checkbook, debit cards, or supply of cash
- Important documents kept in a waterproof container
- Pillows, blankets and seasonal clothing items
- Supply of prescribed medications

If the power goes out during a storm, it is important to stay calm. You can report the outage to the appropriate Norris office by calling the numbers listed on page 2. If you have a phone with an Internet connection, you can receive live power restoration updates by following NorrisPPD on Twitter (www.twitter.com/norrisppd). You can also receive outage notification emails and/or text messages by filling out and sending in the form on www.norrisppd.com.

Following

all of these steps will help you be prepared for severe weather and keep your family safe all year long!

Source: SafeElectricity.org

POLE INSPECTION PROJECT

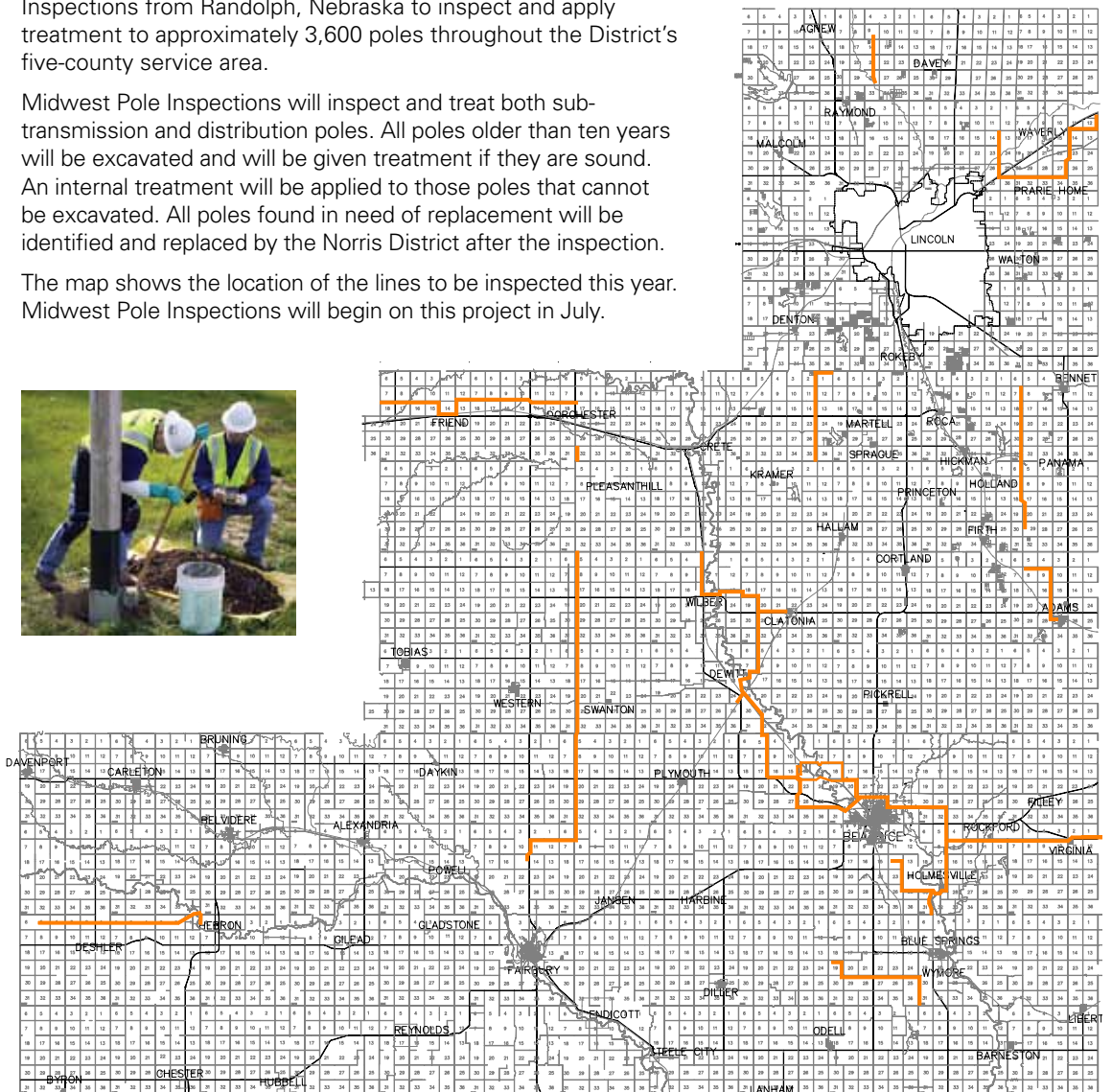
The District began its pole inspection program in 1988 in an effort to identify poles in need of replacement due to age or damage. By continually reinvesting in our system, the Norris District has been able to mitigate damage related to storms and also reduce outage durations for our customers.

Each year, as part of our ongoing pole inspection program, Norris Public Power District inspects a portion of the 85,000 poles that the Norris District owns and maintains. Since the program began, every pole in the District has been inspected.

This year the Norris District has contracted with Midwest Pole Inspections from Randolph, Nebraska to inspect and apply treatment to approximately 3,600 poles throughout the District's five-county service area.

Midwest Pole Inspections will inspect and treat both sub-transmission and distribution poles. All poles older than ten years will be excavated and will be given treatment if they are sound. An internal treatment will be applied to those poles that cannot be excavated. All poles found in need of replacement will be identified and replaced by the Norris District after the inspection.

The map shows the location of the lines to be inspected this year. Midwest Pole Inspections will begin on this project in July.



EnergyWiseSM Tip:

TUNE-UP YOUR COOLING SYSTEM!

**While April showers
bring May flowers,
and May flowers bring
passage into the start
of summer, the start
of summer brings
another season of air
conditioning usage.**



Spring and early summer are the ideal times to tune-up your air conditioning or heat pump system. Early system maintenance can prevent minor issues from becoming expensive problems later on. Furthermore, if your tune-up is scheduled early, you will beat the long waits and higher prices that come with peak season visits from your HVAC repairman.

What's the main reason to schedule an air conditioning or heat pump system tune-up with your HVAC contractor? Saving money! First, you greatly increase the odds that your contractor will catch small problems before they become big ones if you have them checked early in the season. Something like a small refrigerant leak should not cost much more than the service call to repair. However, having to purchase a new compressor when low refrigerant levels burn out your current one can set you back a thousand dollars or more.

The second way an annual tune-up saves you money is by ensuring that your unit is working at optimal efficiency. A well-tuned system uses less energy to cool your house, and lower energy use means bigger savings for you on your monthly utility bills.

A system tune-up is an important part of making sure you get long-lasting and efficient performance over the life of your equipment. Here is a short list of common maintenance procedures your HVAC contractor should include with a routine tune-up:

- Perform a visual inspection of your system
- Check for proper refrigerant levels
- Clean the outside compressor unit coil
- Check the indoor coil
- Blow out the drain line
- Check belts and lubricate motors, if needed
- Check, clean, and/or replace filters and discuss a replacement schedule
- Discuss proper system operation and proper temperature set-back

Tune-ups on cooling systems that have been neglected for a few years can typically provide 5-15 percent energy savings, or more. While a tune-up every year can help optimize your system's efficiency, you may be eligible for a \$30 EnergyWiseSM incentive every three years to help offset the cost of a tune-up. Visit your local Norris area office to see if you qualify. If Myron Zoubek of Milligan would please call the Area 1 – Hebron office, we will arrange to have a serviceman deliver your Kill-A-Watt device.

Don't spring into this summer without considering your cooling system. A tune-up may be all you need to ensure a cool and comfortable place to escape the heat!



2011 Operation ROUND UP 2nd Quarter Results

In 2001, Norris Public Power District launched the "Operation Round Up" program. Operation Round Up is a voluntary program in which customers select to have their monthly electric bills "rounded up" to the next highest dollar. The additional cents are placed in the Norris Power Goodwill Fund. This fund is administered by a board of directors made up of one Norris customer from each of the five counties we serve. The board meets quarterly to consider requests and make disbursements. Since its inception, Operation Round Up has granted over \$443,000 to organizations within our five county service area.

Award Amount	Organization/Agency	Purpose
\$50	Beatrice Post Graduation	Post graduation activities
\$50	Beatrice High School, Crete High School, Diller-Odell High School, Fairbury High School, Freeman Public Schools, Friend High School, Lewiston High School, Malcolm High School, Meridian High School, Parents for Another Choice - Wymore Southern, Raymond Central High School, Sterling High School, Tri County High School, Waverly High School, Wilber-Clatonia Public School	Post prom activities
\$147	Girl Scout Daisy Troop 297, Wilber	Supplies for community meals
\$200	Homestead Dulcimer Club, Beatrice	New amplifier
\$250	Burkley Wellness Center, Fairbury	Spinning bike
\$250	Crete Youth in Governance	Bridge surface for bridge in Tuxedo Park
\$250	Tri County Music Boosters	Brass drum carrier
\$300	Dynamic 4-H Club, Hallam	Fleece material for blankets for Crete Hospital / newborns
\$420	DeWitt Senior Center	Table & chairs
\$500	Freeman Public Schools	Missoula's Children Theater Tour
\$500	Nebraska Community Foundation for the benefit of Dorchester Area Community Foundation Fund	Welcome signs
\$500	Sewing for Babies, Inc., Beatrice	Knit fabric for clothing & blankets for infants & children
\$750	Riverview Jr. Stockmen 4-H Club, Wymore	Gates, panels & signs
\$850	Lancaster County 4H, Pilot-A-Pig Program	Used hog shed for raising hogs
\$1000	Cortland Improvement Association	Landscaping in park
\$1000	Panama Cemetery Association Inc.	Memorial
\$1000	Pastimes Activities Club, Bruning	Picnic tables
\$1000	Tobias Community Foundation	Playground safety surface material
\$1500	Gage County Historical Society	New flooring at the Filley Stone Barn
\$1500	Thayer Central Athletic Boosters	New hurdles
\$1500	Western American Legion Post 255	Metal roof on Legion Building

**Total Amount Awarded for
2nd Quarter = \$14,217**

If your organization has received a donation from Operation Round Up funds, send us a photo showing how you've benefitted and we'll feature it in an upcoming issue of the Norris News!

COOK^{of the} Month—Scott Woitalewicz

Western, NE



For Scott Woitalewicz, cooking for his family is a way of limiting their exposure to processed foods while teaching his children to be aware of where their food comes from and how to cook it. He hopes his children will apply the cooking discipline he's teaching them to their families when they're older.

Scott's love and knowledge of cooking came from his mother. She taught him many cooking techniques, including how to can and preserve foods. Scott canned food on his own for the first time in 2010 and went all out, preserving a wide range of produce and sauces including garden vegetables, salsa, pizza sauce, pasta sauce, jams, jellies and fruit butters. His mother proudly claims that he's now surpassed her with his cooking abilities!

A Nebraska native, Scott has lived in towns throughout the state but eventually settled with his wife, Damara, in Western. Together they have two young daughters, Evelyn Ann, 4, and Jenna Kristine, 3. Scott has shared three of his family's favorite recipes below for your cooking enjoyment.

Buffalo Chicken Pizza

- 2 – 6.5 oz. pouches of pizza crust mix
- 1 – 12 oz. bottle of buffalo wing sauce, divided
- 2 C shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 C part-skim shredded mozzarella cheese
- 3 lbs. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cubed
- 1 tsp. each garlic salt, pepper & chili powder
- 3 Tbsp. butter
- 1 tsp. dried oregano
- Celery sticks & blue cheese salad dressing

Fit crust to lightly greased 10 x 15 cookie sheet or baking dish. Brush dough with 3 tablespoons buffalo wing sauce. Combine cheddar and mozzarella cheeses; sprinkle a third over the crust. Set aside.

In a large skillet, cook the chicken, garlic salt, pepper and chili powder in butter until chicken is no longer pink. Add the remaining wing sauce; cook and stir over medium heat for about 5 minutes.

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Spoon over cheese. Sprinkle with oregano and remaining cheese.

Bake for 18–20 minutes or until crust is golden brown and cheese is melted. Serve with celery and blue cheese dressing.

Baked Potato Salad

- 13 to 15 potatoes, cooked and cubed
- 1 ½ to 2 lbs. bacon, crisply cooked and crumbled
- 3 C shredded cheddar cheese, divided
- 1 onion, chopped
- 16 oz. jar mayonnaise-type salad dressing

Combine potatoes, bacon, half the cheese, onion and enough salad dressing to make the mixture moist; mix well. Spread into a large roasting pan; sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake at 350 degrees until bubbly, about one hour. Serves 18–20.

Cream of Tomato Soup

- 28 oz. can diced tomatoes, with liquid
- 1 cup chicken broth
- ¼ C butter
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 2 Tbsp. onion, chopped
- 1/8 tsp. baking soda
- 2 cups whipping cream

In saucepan, mix tomatoes, broth, butter, sugar, onion and baking soda together. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes. Heat cream separately and add to tomato mixture just before serving. Makes 4 servings. Double recipe to get 6–8 servings.

Feature a COOK of the Month

If you know of someone in our area you would like to see featured as the Cook of the Month, please send an email to comments@norrispower.com or call our Beatrice office at 402.223.4038.

Community Events Calendar

For the most current list of community events, visit www.norrisppd.com and look for the Community Events Calendar on the right side of your screen.

TUESDAY, MAY 17

EMS Training Session – Diabetic Emergencies

Freeman Public Schools Media Center

415 8th Street, Adams

7:00 PM–9:00 PM

Free of charge and open to all EMS workers

Class is worth 2 hours continuing ed for EMS workers

Questions, call Village of Adams at 402.988.2269, leave message

SATURDAY, MAY 21

14th Annual Renaissance Festival

James Arthur Vineyards, 2001 W. Raymond Road, Raymond

Noon to 8:00 PM

Frivolity, food and award-winning Nebraska wines

Children's games and crafts area

Hosted by Heartland Big Brother and Big Sister

SATURDAY, MAY 21

Camp Creek Antique Machinery Swap Meet and Flea Market

17200 Bluff Road, Waverly (2 miles east on Bluff Road from Waverly Intermediate School on 148th and Bluff Road)

Starts at sunrise with a pancake breakfast, good food all day

Free admission, \$20 vendor fee

General information, call, 402.421.6442 or 402.786.3003

or visit www.ccthreshers.org

SATURDAY, MAY 28

Pig Iron Days in Panama

Check in at 10:00 AM

Tractor Pull Starts at 11:00 AM

Sponsored by State Farm Insurance

Includes concessions, petting zoo, carnival and more

Volunteers needed, contact Jay Nutter at 402.788.2789 or

Rosanna Connelly at 402.788.2598 for more information

or visit www.mid-statesantiquetractorshow.org/events.html

MONDAY, MAY 30

DeWitt Annual Memorial Day Services

10:30 AM at the Oak Grove Cemetery, DeWitt

Followed by the Annual Dinner at the community center

at 12:00 PM, public invited

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

Plymouth Community Garage Sales

Beginning 8:00 AM

Maps at Plymouth Grocery, Country Store and each location

Sponsored by Plymouth Improvement Association

For more information call 402.656.5260

FRIDAY, JUNE 10 & SATURDAY, JUNE 11

Garage Sales

Cortland

8:00 AM–5:00 PM

SUNDAYS, JUNE 12 & 26, JULY 10 & 24

The Gage County Historical Society Band Concerts

Beatrice Chautauqua Park Tabernacle, 7:00 PM

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

Go Fish Kids! Nebraska Walleye Association Kids Fishing Clinic

Rockford State Recreation Area, east side of lake, Area 4

Registration at 12:30 PM

Sign up: contact Beatrice Area Chamber of Commerce

402.223.2338 or email info@beatricechamber.com

by Friday, June 10

Workshop is free. Hot dogs, chips, pop and water included

Limit 100 kids; Parents encouraged to attend

TUESDAY, JUNE 14–SUNDAY, JUNE 19

Homestead Days “That’s Entertainment”

Celebrate with us throughout the week by visiting Homestead

National Monument of America, Gage County Historical

Society Museum and the Beatrice Public Library

June 16 – EBBA Family Fun Night

June 17 – Pancake breakfast, street dance, speedway races

June 18 – Parade, kids activities, ribfest

June 19 – 2 mile/10k Bow ‘N Go Triathlon, community church service

For complete event details, visit www.beatricechamber.com

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

Cortland Fest

All day event

Games, tractor and car show, BBQ, craft show/farmers market, parade, entertainment and fireworks at the end of the day.

SATURDAY, JULY 9 & SUNDAY, JULY 10

Riverside Music Festival

Jesse Bickle Farmstead, Crete Heritage Society

West 13th Street, Crete

Country, Bluegrass, Gospel, and more

Proceeds to benefit heritage programming

For more information, contact Janet at (402).826.5270

SATURDAY, JULY 16 & SUNDAY, JULY 17

35th Annual Camp Creek Antique Machinery and Threshing Show

17200 Bluff Road, Waverly (2 miles east on Bluff Road from Waverly Intermediate School on 148th and Bluff Road)

7:00 AM–5:00 PM

Demonstrations and exhibits of the way life used to be

Pancake breakfast, tractor pulls and Parade of Power each day

\$7.00 admission (under 12 free)

For more information visit www.ccthreshers.org

or call 402.421.6442