

Emerald Ash Borer Active Period Now

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) emerald ash borer (EAB) best management practice guidelines say to avoid removal of ash branches, trees, and stumps May 1 through September 30 in known EAB infested areas.



If removal is necessary due to a hazardous condition, then chip at least the outer 1 inch of bark/wood on-site and transport to the nearest facility that can quickly process the material, or transport at least the outer 1 inch of bark/wood in a vehicle where it is 100% enclosed to the nearest facility that can quickly process the material. Material should remain enclosed until it can be, at a minimum, chipped.

For more information on best management practices, please visit the [MDA EAB website](#) or the University of Minnesota [EAB risk status](#) website.

Courtesy: MDA

(Replacing coal continued from Page 1)

GRE's renewable capacity is projected to grow from approximately 660-MW in 2020 to more than 1,760-MW by the end of 2023. The Great River Energy board of directors, May 7, approved 600-MW of wind energy projects, most of which will be located in Minnesota.

GRE plans to add energy and capacity as needed through upgrades at its fleet of modern, natural gas peaking plants and purchases from the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) energy market.

Coal Creek Station has been a critical part of Great River Energy's power supply portfolio for decades, but it has lost value compared to other alternatives in recent years. GRE plans to shut down both units of Coal Creek Station during the second half of 2022, although the cooperative is willing to consider opportunities to sell the plant. Coal Creek Station began operations in 1979 in Underwood, North Dakota, and employs 260 people. 30121

"Like all of Great River Energy's decisions, these changes are made in the best interests of our member-owner cooperatives," Saggau said. "Coal Creek Station is operated efficiently, safely and with pride by a dedicated and talented staff. We will make every effort to minimize impacts on our employees

and the communities through this transition."

To assist local communities during the upcoming transition, Great River Energy plans to make voluntary annual payments of the local government share of the plant's taxes for five years after the plant's closure.

GRE plans to negotiate an agreement to terminate its steam and water supply contract with Blue Flint, an ethanol biorefinery fueled by process steam from Coal Creek Station. Blue Flint's owner, Midwest AgEnergy, is considering using the contract termination payment from Great River Energy to reinvest in an economical alternate source for its process heat, thereby benefiting area farmers by continuing to support the local market for corn.

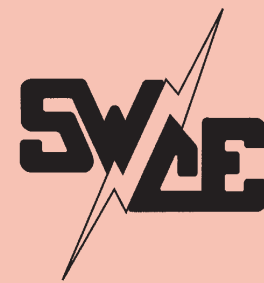
Located near Jamestown, N.D., Spiritwood Station is a combined heat and power plant fueled by a combination of DryFine™ lignite coal and natural gas. Great River Energy plans to modify the plant to be fueled with natural gas. The plant generates electricity for the regional electric grid and supplies steam to a nearby ethanol biorefinery.

GRE is working with Form Energy, a battery storage technology developer based in Somerville, Massachusetts, on a first-of-its-kind demonstration of

Form's unique long-duration storage technology. The battery project will be a 1-MW, grid-connected storage system capable of delivering its rated power continuously for 150 hours, far longer than the four-hour usage period common among lithium ion batteries. Long-duration storage will help maintain grid reliability in the future during extreme conditions, such as a heat wave or polar vortex. The battery system will be located in Cambridge, Minnesota, and completed in late 2023.

The announced projects will create hundreds of high-quality construction jobs. "We look forward to partnering with local labor and industry on our projects," Saggau said.

Great River Energy is a not-for-profit wholesale electric power cooperative that provides electricity to 28 member-owner distribution cooperatives including Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric. Together their systems provide power to approximately two-thirds of Minnesota geographically and parts of Wisconsin, serving 700,000 families, farms, and businesses. GRE is the second largest electric power supplier in Minnesota, and one of the largest generation and transmission cooperatives in the nation.



the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

July 2020

Your billing statement this month has a special line listing the amount of your electric sales less power costs in 2019. This is shown as **2019 PATRONAGE BASIS**. Capital credit equity you've been allocated for 2019 is shown as **2019 ALLOCATION**, if electric sales exceeded power costs. Also listed is the **CAPITAL CREDIT BALANCE**, which is the amount of your remaining accumulated equity. Please save this month's billing statement if you will need any of those amounts for tax preparation. Only inactive accounts receive separate statements of equity.

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Major power supply changes to reduce costs to member-owner cooperatives

Great River Energy (GRE) plans to replace coal with low cost renewables and market energy purchases

Great River Energy announced plans Thursday, May 7, to transform its portfolio of power supply resources in the coming years, significantly reducing member-owner wholesale power costs.

The electric cooperative plans to phase out remaining coal resources, add significant renewable energy, and explore critical grid-scale battery technology.

GRE plans to take the following actions:

- Retire the 1,151-megawatt (MW) Coal Creek Station (see right adjacent photo) in the second half of 2022.

- Add 1,100-MW of wind energy purchases by the end of 2023.

- Modify the 99-MW, coal and natural gas-based Spiritwood Station power plant to be fueled by natural gas.

- Install a 1-MW, long-duration battery demonstration system.

- Support the repowering of the Blue Flint biorefinery with natural gas.

"We are building a power supply portfolio that will serve our member-owner cooperatives for decades," said GRE President and Chief Executive Officer David Saggau. "We are taking advantage of cost-competitive renewables and reliable access to market energy while fostering innovation as the technology of our industry evolves."



David Saggau



The announcement follows several changes Great River Energy has made in recent years to seek economic efficiencies in its power supply portfolio. Past analysis has led to decisions to exit a contract for half the output of a Wisconsin coal plant in 2015, retire the coal-based Stanton power plant in 2017, close the waste-to-energy Elk River Resource Recovery Project in 2019, and purchase the output of several wind energy projects.

The announced portfolio changes will significantly reduce GRE's member-owner power supply costs. In addition, the cooperative's power supply resources will be more than 95 percent carbon-dioxide free, virtually eliminating carbon risk.

"Our power supply plans deliver on our member-owners' three highest priorities: affordability, reliability and environmental stewardship," Saggau said. "Electric cooperatives have a bright future in Minnesota."

Great River Energy plans to purchase more than 1,100-MW from new wind energy projects. This amounts to a more than \$1.2 billion investment in the Midwest's abundant clean energy resources.

(Replacing coal continued on Page 8)

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Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

Operations Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

For Customer Service, Billing Questions and Power Outages

Phone:

507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514

Before calling to report an outage

1. Check fuses and circuit breakers in your home and on meter pole.
2. Check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
3. Look for possible causes such as a tree branch on wires, a broken pole, twisted wires, etc.

To leave a non-emergency message whenever SWCE's Office is closed:

Phone 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514 and listen to the prompts. Please have your account number, phone number, and name on the account available.

Call *Before* You Dig
Gopher State One Call
811 or 800-252-1166

48-hour notice required for **ALL** underground cable locations

manager connection



By Syd Briggs,
General Manager

I would like to thank everyone involved in our cooperative for the well wishes and cooperation we experience as we operate our services in as safe a manner as is possible.

We continue to keep our doors closed at the cooperative as a precautionary manner, and we appreciate everyone's understanding.

Since our last *Sparks* newsletter, Gov. Walz did extend the Peacetime Emergency Executive Order to June 12, 2020. We expect another extension, however, no matter what the decision, to protect our employees and our members, we will be careful about reopening.

Our Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric board of directors has been having teleconference meetings, and have embraced new technology by adding video capabilities as we meet. We continue to learn new ways to communicate and look forward to a time where we can be together safely again.

My hope is to be able to accept walk-in traffic sometime this fall should the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and state health department change their recommendation.

Steele-Waseca is still not sure about how or when we can have an annual meeting. The co-op's bylaws require a physical meeting where we vote for our directors at that meeting, and we are exploring different possibilities that would satisfy those requirements. Presently, restaurants can only serve limited number of patrons in an outdoor setting; and although we expect that to change, we don't expect to be able to serve a meal this year as we have in the past. I also always look forward to seeing so many of you and our guests at the annual meeting, and I will look forward to being in contact again as soon as possible. We have some very creative employees working on a plan and will communicate with you as we confirm a workable and confident solution. 112915

Until we are ready to publish our normal financial information on the past year, I would like to share some of the

financial highlights with you. This past year (2019) was very good for the co-op, and we continue to be very stable with rates, equity, and assets. Our assets grew 3 percent (\$2.4 million), while our long-term debt decreased slightly (down \$136,000). This increased our equity even after retiring a record \$1.4 million in capital credits to our members. Equity still increased \$2.6 million or 6.6 percent. Steele-Waseca is doing well managing our operations expenses, and saw a decrease of 6.8 percent in expenses other than our cost of power. The co-op's operating margins increased \$918,000 which was the major factor in the large increase of retiring or paying capital credits to you, our member-owners.

Currently, Steele-Waseca is doing fine financially, even with the expected decrease in economic activity. However, the co-op is seeing an increase in our delinquents, and are working with everyone to keep the lights on, and be financially responsible at the same time.

If anyone is struggling with paying their Steele-Waseca electric bill, please make arrangements by calling the office as soon as possible. The co-op is referring members to help agencies such as Semcac, Three Rivers Community Action, Inc.; and Minnesota Valley Action Council, and Steele-Waseca can help spread the payments out if we are contacted early.

In the last three months, when I have written my column, the COVID-19 cases in Minnesota have gone from 629 to 6,663 to 25,208 positive cases. It seems unbelievable and should signify why we should continue to be careful and take precautions of social distancing. We have seen a hopeful decline in the past week, but all of us should continue to take care, and continue to monitor the situation. We are still fortunate at the cooperative to have no employees or directors testing positive.

We still have so much to be thankful for with our neighbors and family. Someday this, along with other distressing events, will be in the past. Until then, stay diligent with washing your hands, don't touch your face, and maintain a distance of six feet from everyone as much as possible.

ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

HAIER AIR CONDITIONER, 8000 Btu, \$40; **CUB CADET PUSH MOWER**, 173cc, \$35. 641-390-1623.

ENGINES & TRANSMISSIONS, USED TRUCK & AUTO PARTS, 30-day warranty on eng. & trans. 332-2300.

20' TANDEM AXLE TRAILER, new tires, wood bed, always stored inside, \$1100/obo. 451-9614.

MEN'S GOLF CLBS, metl wds: 1-3-7, hd covrs, "Ping Eye 2" irons (full set), Callaway Tuttle putter, bag, \$50; **LADIES GOLF CLBS**, Bg Bertha drvr, 7- & 9-wd, Calla. Tutt. ptr, bag w/hd covr, \$50. 374-2642.

MASON JARS for canning: half pint, pint, & qt; **(2) ANTIQUE MEAT GRINDERS**. 456-8853.

1994 MONTEREY COBRA RV, 32', new 454 motor, radiator, disc brakes pads & rotors, and wheels, everything works, \$15,000/obo. 330-0612.

ROUND CIRCLE CORN CRIB used for dog kennel, \$200; **(2) CHEST DEEP FREEZERS**, \$100/each. 524-4637.

WOODEN HIGH-TOP DINING ROOM TABLE w/(4) chairs & a bench. 384-1972.

22' STARCRAFT ISLANDER & ROLLER TRAILER w/(2) 70-hp Johnsons, cuddy cabin, camper top, porta-potty, sleeps (2), exc. shape. 451-6517.

1987 FORD ECONOLINE CONVERSION VAN, low mileage, gd cond. 451-6563.

AIR HOCKEY TABLE, 3'x6.5'; **WOOD DESK**, 3'x6'. 676-4039.

HOMEMADE TRAILER, 4'x8', gd cond.; **CORN GRINDER** in gd cond. 456-8329.

OLDER NH MIXER MILL. 456-8973.

TREK 800 SINGLETRACK, 24-spd, F.S. Fork MtB, boy's, 26x175, \$150; **FUJI MEN'S BIKE**, 27x125, 12-spd, alloy wheels, \$100. 330-3178.

GOODYEAR TRACTOR TIRE, 18.4-34, 6-ply, 50% tread, \$25; **GREEN STEEL PATIO TABLE** w/(4) matching rocker chairs, \$130. 952-652-2933.

FRESH RHUBARB, \$2/lb. 320-2852/Bl. Pr.

14' ALUMACRAFT F9 BOAT, Lowrance depth finder, trailer, seats, all in vry gd cond., \$1200. 451-7755.

(15) EWES/(4) BUCK LAMBS, all current vaccinations, sheared ready for pasture. 412-7045/Wendy.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) assumes no liability for the content of, or reply to, any item posted. The party posting any advertisement assumes complete liability for the content of, and all replies to, any advertisement and for any claims against SWCE as a result thereof, and agrees to indemnify and hold SWCE harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto.

Residential rebates available to Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric members during 2020

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric member-owners seeking to add value to their energy dollar may utilize rebates offered by the co-op in 2020.

Rebates for central air conditioners and air source heat pumps are listed below, and require a quality installation. To find a qualified installer, visit Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop, click on "Residential Rebates," then "Qualified Installers List," listed under "Quick Links."

	A/C	ASHP
14.5-14.9 SEER	\$50	\$200
15.0-15.9 SEER	\$50	\$300
16.0+ SEER	\$50	\$400

Rebates for Energy Star® labeled ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) are \$100 per ton in 2020.

Heat pump water heaters (HPWHs) in 2020 have a rebate of \$500.

Steele-Waseca is offering a \$50 rebate for a residential HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM), which offers a higher efficiency rating than typical electric blowers or condenser fan motors.

Ductless ASHPs with the Energy Star label are eligible for a \$100 rebate if your primary heat is delivered fuel, and \$200 if your primary heat is electric.

Energy Star labeled refrigerators and freezers are eligible for a \$50 rebate, only if you recycle your old unit.

Dehumidifiers with the Energy Star label are eligible for a \$25 rebate.

Residential lighting rebates in 2020 will only be for LED (light emitting diode) lightbulbs with the Energy Star label. The rebate is \$2 per bulb up to one-half the purchase price (limit 5 bulbs).

Steele-Waseca members who install a LED yard light fixture that is Energy Star or DLC (Design Lights Consortium) rated are eligible for a \$30 rebate; Wi-Fi smart thermostats are eligible for a \$25 rebate; Energy Star labeled electric clothes dryers are eligible for a \$25 rebate; a central air conditioner tune up is eligible for a \$25 rebate per unit; variable speed pool pumps with the Energy Star label are eligible for a \$100 rebate; and pool ASHPs are eligible for a \$200 rebate.

Steele-Waseca is offering up to \$500 for members participating in the ChargeWise program. This is a voluntary program offered by participating electric cooperatives for qualified members who own a plug-in (PEV) or plug-in hybrid (PHEV) electric vehicle.

The program allows members to charge their PEV/PHEV in their garage or carport using electricity from a specially installed 20-amp ChargeWise outlet. This ChargeWise outlet only provides electricity during the off-peak hours of 11 p.m.-7 a.m. Members simply plug in the PEV in the evening and their vehicle is charged during those

2000 FLEETWOOD 38' COACH TURBO CUMMINS, double overdrive Allison, (6) new Michelins, 93K mi., (2) slides, awnings, \$32,500. 261-9302.

1975 CHEVY C65 DIESEL TRUCK, air brakes, twin screw, 20' box; **1938 FORD PICKUP**, restored, runs & drives. 327-3626.

OLDER 20' PALM BEACH PONTOON w/lift & Mercury Classic 50 w/tilt & trim, \$2000/obo. 456-2301.

CIRCLE LK LOT, 0.7 acres; **(2) DOWNHILL ROSSIGNOL SKIS**. 470-262-7696.

CASE IH 2188 COMBINE, 8-row 2208 corn head, 1020 air reel bean head, field ready, \$52,000; **BRENT 674 GRAIN CART**, \$15,000. 456-5184.

CAKE PANS, different sizes: round, sq., heart, retiring from cake baking. 461-3696.

2000 FOREST RIVER CHEROKEE LITE 5TH WHEEL, 26', (1) slide out, good condition, \$5500. 491-5372.



Products with the Energy Star label have met federal specifications regarding energy efficiency.

overnight hours at a reduced rate. They wake up to a fully-charged electric vehicle.

If you have a question, or wish to request a rebate form, please call Cindy Butterfield at Steele-Waseca weekdays between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rebate forms are available at Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop, by clicking on "Residential Rebates." Please visit energystar.gov to check the model number of qualifying products. 1018433

Completed rebate forms must be accompanied with a copy of the receipt and submitted within 90 days of purchase. Please allow 6-8 weeks for processing. The rebate will appear as a credit on your Steele-Waseca bill.

ad connection

give away

SCRAP METAL; FENCE POSTS; WIRE; SOME ALUM., you haul, near Ellendale. 475-1743.

BALDWIN UPRIGHT ELEC. PIANO, console w/various sounds, brass, string, woodwind, etc. 334-3904.

HORSE, mare, approx. 20-yr-old, to a gd home. 456-9409.

FREE ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS, you place & remove your own ad on SWCE's website, swce.coop, these are separate from Sparks & will not appear in Sparks unless mailed, delivered, faxd or emailed to SWCE.

wanted

SHED, approx. 8'x10'. 456-3640.

TORO SNOWBLOWER ATTACHMENT, Model #79361, in gd cond., to fit Toro 520H lawn tractor. 451-3370.

RHUBARB. 664-9426.

TRACTOR TIRE CHAINS, size 18-4-34. 456-0296.

JUNKERS OR REPAIRABLES, top \$ paid for cars & trucks. 332-2300.

FORD SKID STEER, diesel. 330-1849.

(1) PAIR OF DUAL TIRES w/o rims, size 20-8-R38. 413-3266.

LAWN CARE SERVICE JOBS: mowing, weed whip, light tree work. 651-354-4405.

SOMEONE TO CUT & BALE 5-25 ACRES OF MOSTLY GRASS HAY near Mdfd, shares or ? 339-0763/Dave.

STORAGE FOR FISH HOUSE & PONTOON in the Fbo area; PONTOON TRAILER to rent or purchase in the Fbo area. 475-8726.

USED/WASTE OIL, 200-gal. min. 420-7429.

UNWANTED BIKES & LAWN MOWERS, \$ pd on delivered. 330-3178.

for sale

100-ACRES HUNTING LAND FOR RENT; 2-WHEEL TRAILER. 664-9426.

Sparks

Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by July 6 to ensure being printed in the August Sparks. Please print neatly or type your ad of 20 words or less on this form. We reserve the right to edit ad copy to allow space for more ads. Ads received after the 6th will be printed in the September issue.

☐ For Sale

☐ Wanted

☐ Give Away

Phone #

Account #

Name

Clip and mail to: SWCE, PO Box 485, Owatonna MN 55060-0485, or fax to: (507) 446-4242 or email your ad to: sparks@swce.coop.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

TRAILER, 8x14, tandem axle (7500 each), new tires, \$1700; LAWN SWEEPER, \$125. 456-9145.

MEN'S COMPRESSION SOCKS, like new, size L. 465-8153.

VARIETY OF MEN'S & WOMEN'S OLD WEST/ FRONTIER CLOTHING incl. hats, skirts, vests, frocks, shirts, trousers & accessories. 952-451-4821.

30' UTILITY POLE, wood, 9" at bottom taped to 5" at top, \$100. 455-9502.

FLUORESCENT LIGHTS, 4' & 8', \$6/each; CAR-TOP CARRIER, \$35; PET KENNEL, large, \$30; 4.5" GRINDER, new, \$10. 455-3881.

CRP & WOODLAND MAINTENANCE, BRUSH WATERWAY DITCHES & more; SKID LOADER & EXCAVATOR w/mulching attachments. 451-0609.

FORTUNE CREEK TRL LOTS, the covenant allows for a pole shed, starting at \$75,000. 838-5033/John.

500-GAL. LP TANK, 10-yr-old, \$500/obo. 334-7309 or 210-3156.

SHOREMASTER BOAT LIFT, 1800-lb capacity, 96" wide, manual, incl. canopy & canopy cover (good cond.), \$1500. 323-5032/txt or leave message.

EXCESS COINS FROM MY COLLECTION, all denominations in protective carriers. 676-0970/Owat.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

JD 2-BOTTOM GARDEN PLOW, pull type, rubber tires, hyd. lift, \$300. 744-2792.

CANNING JARS, pints & qts, \$0.50/each; HOME-MADE TOMATO CAGES, \$5/each; HI-LO CAMPER, reasonable. 451-7578.

SHIPPING CONTAINERS, 20' & 40', store your stuff on your property, in a rodent- & moisture-proof container. 612-418-4375.

CLIMATE CONTROLLED UNITS FOR RENT, 11'x9' to 16'x10'. 332-4623.

(2) '16 CABELA'S ADV. ANGLR 120 KAYAKS, like new w/paddles & cart, \$575/ea.; ADAMS TRAIL-A-BIKE ORIG., \$119; ALUM. PORTALIFT BOAT LIFT, 1000 lb. max. weight cap., \$789. 456-9722.

PRO QUALITY HAY BASKET, holds about 100 bales, \$875. 456-7614.

TREE TRIMMING, REMOVL & STUMP GRINDING, pro climber & aerial lift to U of M guidelines; FRONT CHROME BUMPER for an F-650, new. 456-1609.

TRAILER CONVERTED TO ICE FISHING HOUSE, stove, oven, heater, crank-up wheels, good cond. 210-1826.

KATAHDIN HAIR SHEEP, ewe/ram lambs, & mature ewes, great for beginner, 4-H, & organic. 451-2722.

16' ALUMACRAFT, 60-HP MOTOR, used very little, fish lockers, etc., recent tune-up, trailer, \$3500. 301-9694.

RENTAL, Izaak Walton League Bldg., 4 mi. south of Owat., seats 100, full kitchen, grill, Wi-Fi, \$125. 451-7946.

COMPACT TRACTOR YARD WORK: move rock & dirt, till gardens, have bucket & blade. 451-6046.

2000 EXISS GOOSENECK LIVESTOCK TRAILER, 7x20, \$7495. 649-0735.

(2) AR-556 GUNS, new, upgraded models, \$600/ea. 202-8871.

SHINGLING & LIGHT CONSTRUCTION, free estimates. 456-0296.

JONSERED CHAIN SAW, comes w/(2) chains, tuned up, great shape, 18" bar, \$150; CEDAR MAIL-BOX POST, new, \$15. 334-3804.

MINI STORAGE UNITS FOR RENT in Ellendale. 456-1460.

1978 GMC SIERRA CLASSIC, 4WD, 1/2 ton, (1) owner, 40,000 mi., always stored inside, blk w/red interior, \$9000. 213-0610.

BEACHFRONT VACATION CONDOS FOR RENT in Fort Myers Beach, South Padre Island & Mexico, visit www.sandysbeachfrontcondo.com for details & photos. 612-865-9604/Sandy.

250-GAL. FUEL TANK, \$50; (100) STEEL FENCE POSTS, \$2/each; 10 - 16' STEEL GATES, \$50/each. 390-5244/Owat.

WEIDER SKI MASTER CROSS COUNTRY SKIER EXERCISE MACHINE. 838-8792.

1998 EXISS SS300 3-HORSE SLANT TRAILER, gd tires, all lights & brake system work, 2021 tabs; SADDLE. 461-3697.

DUMP TRUCK AVAIL. FOR ALL YOUR TRUCK-ING DELIVERIES: rock, gravel, dirt, etc. 15.5-ton capacity. 456-7774.

96' DOCK ON WHEELS, \$3000 (can split into 3 sections). 334-7177.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

travel

Call 4-Seasons at 800-328-4298 to learn more about their tour information.

4 Seasons

Vacations, Inc.

TRUST OUR EXPERIENCE. LOVE YOUR VACATION.

member connection

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric awards scholarships to 15 “Class of 2020” high school graduates

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric has awarded \$500 scholarships to 15 high school seniors graduating in 2020.

A portion of the funds to support these scholarships come from unclaimed capital credit equity. 1023116

Steele-Waseca’s scholarship program has awarded \$181,750 in scholarships since the program was established in 1954.

The recipients are a dependent of a Steele-Waseca member and will be attending a two- or four-year technical school or college this fall. The recipients were selected by their respective high schools. This year’s recipients include:

• Katherine Jasinski, Bethlehem Academy, the daughter of Michael and Michelle Jasinski, Faribault.

• Maya Lembke, Blooming Prairie, the daughter of Lonnie and Mandy Lembke, Blooming Prairie.

• Mara Bauer, Faribault, the daughter of Pete and Melissa Bauer, Nerstrand.

• Dalton Bjornson, Hayfield, the son of Ted and Tara Bjornson, Hayfield.

• Laura Jahr, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, the daughter of Jeff and Joyce Jahr, Waldorf.

• Jenna Engel, Kenyon-Wanamingo, the daughter of Chris Engel and Rebecca Engel, Kenyon.

• Caitlyn O’Brien, Maple River, the daughter of Rick and Beth O’Brien, Mapleton.

• Morgan Langeslag, Medford, the daughter of Chad and Heidi Langeslag, Medford.

• Lauren Moravchik, New Prague, the daughter of Joseph and Christine Moravchik, Lonsdale.

• Mia Farr, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, the daughter of Joe and Kaylee Farr, Hope.

• Leah Transburg, Northfield, the daughter of Foster and Lisa Transburg, Northfield.

• Nicole Skalicky, Owatonna, the daughter of Troy and Anne Skalicky, Owatonna.

• Katie Fitzgerald, Triton, the daughter of David and Ann Fitzgerald, West Concord.

• Anne Christian, Waseca, the daughter of Daniel and Jane Christian, Waseca.

• Max Gibson, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, the son of Travis and Andrea Gibson, Morristown.



Katherine Jasinski



Maya Lembke



Mara Bauer



Dalton Bjornson



Laura Jahr



Jenna Engel



Caitlyn O'Brien



Morgan Langeslag



Lauren Moravchik



Mia Farr



Leah Transburg



Nicole Skalicky



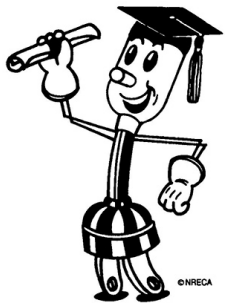
Katie Fitzgerald



Anne Christian



Max Gibson



cookin' connection

Chocolate Chip Cream Cheese Bars

Doris Waknitz

Pemberton

1 box yellow cake mix
1/3 c. oil
2 eggs
1/3 c. sugar
1 pkg (8 oz.) cream cheese
1 1/2 c. chocolate chips

Combine cake mix, oil, and 1 egg until mixed. Reserve 1 cup to use later. Spread the rest of the dough in a greased 9x13" pan. Then mix cream cheese and 1 egg, and sugar until well blended. Stir in chocolate chips (or mini M&Ms), and spread over all. Top with the remaining 1 cup of crumbs. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Cool and cut into squares.

Please use a 3 x 5 card when submitting your recipe. The member whose recipe is published will receive a \$7 energy credit.



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's solar subscribers will see a 47 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during May 2020. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop.

Was your account number in Sparks?

Each month five account numbers are printed in *Sparks* and a total of \$35 in energy credits is divided among however many of those numbers are found. For example, if all numbers are found, a credit of \$7 will be applied to the members' following month's electric bills; or, if only one number is found, that member receives the full \$35 credit. Members finding their numbers who have a load management receiver on their dual fuel, electric water heater, air conditioner, or genset will receive an additional \$7 credit. When you find your number, phone our office no later than the 7th of the month following receipt of the *Sparks*, or the amount will be forfeited.

June issue of Sparks

Numbers found:

Rudolph/Diane Ettlin

Numbers not found:

Larry/LuAnn Alderks

Lorraine Jirele

David Tuma

Jacob Nussbaum

KEEP
LOOKING!

Sparks in brief . . .

• **Want easy energy payments?** Sign up for **EnergyPay Plus**, our automatic payment plan, or **Energy Prepay**, our discounted advance payment plan. Contact our office for details. You may also pay your bill online at www.swce.coop. By entering your Steele-Waseca username and password you can also view a 13-month history of your account.

• **If you have changed or added phone numbers**, please contact SWCE to update your contact information.

• **Need a new water heater?** For information about our Westinghouse Electric Water Heater Program, phone Cindy Butterfield at our office between 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 446-4204 / 800-526-3514.

• **May temps** – The average high temperature for May was 66° F, while the average low was 46° F. This resulted in 291 Heating Degree Days (HDDs) and 16.5 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 64° F and average low of 45° F, which resulted in 348 HDDs and 15.5 CDDs.

• **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2020, all ENERGY STAR refrigerators/freezers (with recycling), electric clothes dryers, dehumidifiers, central air conditioners, air and ground source heat pumps, light emitting diode (LED) bulbs purchased (limit 5) are eligible to receive rebates (may not be combined with special promotions). Rebate request forms must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. Rebate forms are available at swce.coop. For more information or to receive a rebate request form, phone Cindy Butterfield at 800-526-3514.

• **SWCE's tree service contractor** – Carr's Tree Service, Inc., is contracted to do SWCE's tree trimming. To report a tree concern, phone:

507-451-7340 / 800-526-3514

LIVESTOCK OWNERS

If you have questions or concerns regarding stray voltage in your livestock confinement building(s), or are planning an addition, or constructing a new one, call Steele-Waseca at 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514. Steele-Waseca will work with you and your electrician to eliminate potential stray voltage problems. You may also visit: www.minnesotastrayvoltageguide.com.

health & safety connection



70% of Lightning Fatalities OCCUR JUNE THROUGH AUGUST

Take extra care when enjoying outdoor sporting events and activities when weather turns threatening. If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to pose an immediate threat. That is why the National Weather Service advises: "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!" Lightning can strike up to ten miles away from rain, even if you don't see clouds.

Safe Electricity urges everyone to understand the importance of lightning awareness and how to stay safe. Learn more at SafeElectricity.org

Safe Electricity.org

Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark:

1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines:

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.



2. Distribution Substation:

A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist further down the line.

3. Main Distribution Lines:

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

4. Tap Lines:

If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes.

5. Individual Homes:

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issue.

Over 2,500 outages after storms ravage southern SWCE territory

Member-owners in Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's southern service area were out of power Tuesday evening, June 2, after high winds from storms came through the area.

Steele-Waseca Operations Division Manager Kim Huxford reported at the height of the storm, 2,506 meter locations were out of power. Numerous poles were broken throughout the area ranging from south of Pemberton east to the Hayfield area.

According to Huxford, a three-phase overhead power line three miles east of New Richland was on the ground. Great River Energy transmission was off for two hours at the Danville, Matawan, and St. Olaf substations, which impacted 1,500 meter locations. Remaining distribution outages were restored to all that could by 4 a.m., Wednesday, June 3. The downed mile of three-phase line was repaired and fully functional at 7:10 p.m., Wednesday, which brought power back to the last three meter locations impacted from the storm. 27712 Huxford reported 1,000 meter locations served by the Bixby and River Point subs had their power restored by Steele-Waseca line crews by 12:35 a.m., Wednesday, June 3.

In assessing the storm damage, Huxford reported many Steele-Waseca members sustained damage to their personal property, and some had hail decimate their crops. Huxford said the co-op understands how important power is in helping with restoration efforts. "To that end, our crews worked long, hard hours to assist in those efforts and appreciates everyone's patience. We would like to thank those who recognized our efforts both in the field and on Facebook. The crew and operations personnel really appreciated them."



Among the storm damage from June 2 included this power line down as a result of power poles breaking from the pressure of the wind. A Steele-Waseca line crew in the background is working on restoration efforts.