



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>YELC (Youth Energy Leadership Camp)</i>	1
<i>Irrigation Reminder</i>	2
<i>Cooperative Connections Local Business Partners</i>	3
<i>Manager's Message</i>	4
<i>Boardroom News</i>	4

**CO-OP CONNECTIONS LOCAL BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS:**

- [Herren Brothers True Value](#)
- [Same As It Once Was](#)
- [Country Corner Hair Shop](#)
- [Rough and Refined](#)
- [Miller Soap Company](#)

**(CHECK WEBSITE FOR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL DISCOUNTS)**

[Want to be a Business Participant?](#)  
[Call our office for more information.](#)

**YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP**

Each year member-systems of the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) accept applications from area high school students to attend the NREA Youth Energy Leadership Camp at State 4-H Camp in the Halsey National Forest, usually the second week in July.

The popular 5 day camp is set up to give young people a better understanding of the legislative process, electric power generation and the rural electric program. The goal is to offer a program that challenges participants educationally, recreationally and socially.

The Youth Energy Leadership Camp is established as an operating rural electric system and provides a "hands-on" approach to member-owned businesses. The students will join high school students from Nebraska and Wyoming, along with adult counselors and junior counselors. The adult counselors are employees of rural electric systems who donate their time and talents to the camp. The junior counselors are selected by their peers to return to next year's camp.

The State 4-H Camp is located in the Halsey National Forest, near Halsey, Neb. Recreational activities include basketball, volleyball and canoeing. A highlight of the camp involves a tour of the Kingsley Hydro Station at Lake McConaughy and Gerald Gentleman Station, a coal-fired power plant at Sutherland, Neb.

Camp expenses and transportation for our selected applicants are provided by Niobrara Electric Association. High school freshmen, sophomores and juniors whose families are customers of NEA may apply. Applications from interested students must be turned in to NEA by May 18, 2017.

If you are interest in more detail or would like to apply, visit our Facebook page or our website for an application link. You can also stop in our office to pick up an application or call the NEA and speak with Twyla.

**2017 Irrigation General Information Letter is coming out soon. Please read your irrigation paperwork carefully.**

Mid-March, you will be receiving the yearly irrigation letter. The normal irrigation season is May 1 through October 31. In the past, there have been some consumers who have requested to be turned on for April instead of waiting until May. We can meet such a request **IF** we get a bank letter or the pre-payment(s) required in the office and processed at least a week **PRIOR**.

The linemen will connect any services that are ready on April 3rd. If you do not inform us in time for the Monday, April 3rd turn on date, you will be charged a trip fee (\$60.00 plus mileage @ \$1.07 per mile) to connect on any other work day in April. The next scheduled turn on date will be the traditional date, the first Monday in May.

**Connection of Account**

NEA will not connect any irrigation account without a prepayment or bank letter of guarantee. The electric service will be kept in the landowner's name, in the event of a lease agreement. Connected accounts will be required to meet 100% of annual minimum charges.

**Prepayment**

The prepayment will be based on your three highest billings from the previous irrigation year or the annual minimum charge times three, whichever is greater. **The prepayment must be received, in the office, by April 10, 2017.** After receiving prepayment, service will begin on May 1, 2017. NEA will retain this prepayment until the service is disconnected on October 31, 2017. The prepayment will be applied to the final bill and any credits will be returned to consumers by November 30, 2017.

**Bank Letter of Guarantee**

You have the option of obtaining a bank letter of guarantee rather than paying the prepayment. The bank letter of guarantee will be based on your three highest billings from the previous irrigation year or the annual minimum charge times three, whichever is greater. **The bank letter of guarantee must be received, in the office, by April 10, 2017.** After receiving the letter of guarantee, service will begin on May 1, 2017.

**Idle Systems**

Please notify NEA prior to April 10, 2017 if you do not plan to operate your irrigation system. An idle service charge will be applied if you do not want the lines and services removed.

**Maintenance on customer side equipment**

Any services disconnected for maintenance on your equipment during the irrigation season will be required to meet National Electric Code prior to reconnection of the service. This includes getting an electrical permit and a fused disconnect at the metering point.

**New Irrigation rate effective 2/1/2017**

Irrigation

Monthly Facility Charge (6 months)	\$110.00
Demand Charge/kW	\$19.45
Energy/kWh	\$.04716

# 2017 Co-op Connections

## Miller Soap Co. Lance Creek, WY



Enjoy the benefits of your Co-op Connections card, provided by NEA, at these community businesses.

The goal is to bring customers to businesses and in turn reward their patronage with discounts. It's a win, win scenario for all participants.

We hope you'll appreciate reaping the benefits of shopping with our local Co-op Connections Business Partners as well as shopping regionally and nationally with your Co-op Connections card.

Contact our office if you own a business and would like to become a Co-op Connections Partner.



**COUNTRY CORNER**

**HAIR SHOP**

**334-2502**

**ROUGH  
N  
REFINED**

**COFFEE TEA  
AND EATERY**

120 E. 3rd St.

307-334-2718

**SAME AS IT ONCE WAS**  
Antiques - Flowers

[www.niobrara-electric.org](http://www.niobrara-electric.org)

[www.facebook.com/NiobraraElectric](https://www.facebook.com/NiobraraElectric)



NEA NEWS is a publication of Niobrara Electric Association., Inc

PO Box 697 Lusk WY 82225

Phone: 307-334-3221

Fax: 307-334-2620



**Touchstone Energy**<sup>SM</sup>

### Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

7:30 am—5:00 pm

Fridays 7:30 am—  
4:00 pm

**Electrician Department**

**7:00 am—5:30 pm (M-F)**

**Outages** ....1-800-322-0544  
or 307-334-3221

Phones are answered 24 hours a day. Phones will be answered by Niobrara Electric Association during office hours and the Niobrara County Sheriff's office will take all other calls and dispatch NEA personnel.

For those in the Manville to Lance Creek area, you will notice some activity in the near future along Highways 270 and 271 as we get going on the rebuild of that line. Originally, we had looked at only rebuilding the portion below the breaks to the Lance Creek sub, but with favorable bids on the project, we were able to extend the rebuild farther south. As of right now, I don't have the extension costs figured up, but the original estimate was over \$1.1 million and the bids came in closer to \$750,000. This project will be funded through our recently approved work plan loan. We have similar projects scheduled to take place across the system over the next four years, and when those are completed we will develop the next four-year work plan.

At some point in our work plan process, we will be building the necessary equipment to tie into a new source for power from the west. This project was scheduled for a mid-2018 completion, but due to delays, the project may not make that deadline. In the meantime, the backup line that connects Lusk with Glendo has been deemed unusable by Western Area Power Administration and won't be there to provide even the limited back up it did. This means that if there is a failure of the main line, we will be out of power across the whole NEA system and the town of Lusk until repairs are made.

The other construction that is noticeable if you are at headquarters is the garage re-furbishment and addition next to the office. The little garage that is there was in need of new siding, as well as other work, and was not large enough to be useful for much. We have added on to it to create storage for co-op equipment that is compromising space in the line shop, as well as to add indoor parking for my vehicles and equipment. If you notice the progress to be a little slower than most contractors, it is because I am doing the bulk of the construction on the weekends with the assistance of my daughters; basketball season limits the hours we can get work done. We did have to use contractor assistance on the roof, since the trusses were more than my crew could handle. When completed, it should be a good addition to the co-op property.

Kenny Ceagske

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### District

John Hester	1	Keeline, WY	President
Andy Barnette	2	Lusk, WY	
David Keener	3	Marsland, NE	Sec./Treas
Bill Wilson	3	Harrison, NE	
Jack Hammond	1	Lance Creek, WY	
Jim Dunn	3	Harrison, NE	
Kenny DeGering	2	Lusk, WY	
Andy Greer	1	Lance Creek, WY	
JD Wasserburger	2	Lusk, WY	Vice President

### January Board Meeting

- Director Hammond reviewed Tri-State business.
- Director Greer shared WREA business.
- Director Keener spoke on NREA business.
- General Manager Kenny Ceagske discussed updated policies, PSC activities, and upcoming capital projects.
- Line Superintendent Rick Bridge spoke about work plan bids and right of way clearing north of Harrison.