

Bluestem NEWS

BLUESTEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Trisha Bradley
Manager of Accounting and Finance

Jerod Chaffee
Manager of Line Operations

Benjiman C. Easterberg
Manager of AMI and Mapping/OMS

Kevin Heptig
Manager of Member Services

CONTACT US

Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 5, Wamego, KS 66547
800-558-1580

FROM THE CEO

Saving Energy During Peak Times Benefits All



Michael Leitch

Conserving electricity during peak energy use times not only lowers your monthly bill, but it can also benefit our entire community.

"Peak times"

refers to periods of the day when the demand for electricity is highest. For example early mornings when people are getting ready for work or school and evenings when families return home, cook dinner and unwind with electronics. When everyone uses energy at the same time, it adds pressure on the electric grid.

Bluestem Electric Cooperative works around the clock to ensure that electricity flows to your home when-

ever you need it. Behind the scenes, an enormous and intricate system is at work — one of the most complex machines in the world: the U.S. power grid. The grid is made up of three major interconnections that span the country, each managing supply and demand through regional authorities to keep the lights on and our economy running smoothly.

Electricity comes from a diverse mix of sources: hydropower, natural gas, coal, solar, wind, nuclear and more. Some power plants can respond quickly to spikes in demand, while others are less flexible. Once energy is generated, it travels through high-voltage transmission lines to local utilities, like Bluestem Electric, which then delivers it to your home or business through distribution power lines.

Continued on page 12B ►



CO-OPS

VOTE

A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
WWW.VOTE.COOP

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Make your voice count

Take the pledge to vote this election year.

Visit vote.coop to take the pledge.

Co-ops across the nation are dedicated to making our voices heard at the polls. Collectively we can make a difference.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SELECTED

Each year the board of trustees of the cooperative shall appoint a nominating committee whose function is to nominate one or more candidates for trustee positions with expiring terms. The Bluestem Board of Trustees has appointed the following members to serve on the respective nominating committee:

DISTRICTS 1 & 2 (to meet in Clay Center on Oct. 6)

DISTRICT 1

- ▶ **MIKE MUSSELMAN** — Clifton
- ▶ **PAM SUMP** — Green
- ▶ **TIM VOELKER** — Greenleaf

DISTRICT 2

- ▶ **JULIE HENTON** — Clay Center
- ▶ **STEVEN FOX** — Clay Center

DISTRICTS 3 & 4 (to meet in Wamego on Oct. 6)

DISTRICT 3

- ▶ **DAN POLLOCK** — Havensville
- ▶ **MIKE HEPTIG** — St. George
- ▶ **JON HOLLIDAY** — Soldier
- ▶ **BOB MURRAY** — Onaga

DISTRICT 4

- ▶ **EVAN PARSONS** — Manhattan
- ▶ **MARC DEEVER** — Alma

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF TRUSTEE POSITIONS WITH EXPIRING TERMS:

DISTRICT 1, POSITION 1

- ▶ **STEVE OHLDE** — Linn

DISTRICT 2, POSITION 2

- ▶ **PATRICIA BLOOMDAHL** — Clay Center

DISTRICT 3, POSITION 3

- ▶ **MATT REZAC** — Onaga

DISTRICT 4, POSITION 2

- ▶ **DONALD CLASSEN** — Manhattan

Saving Energy During Peak Times Benefits All Continued from page 12A ▶

When electricity demand surges during peak times, it's more expensive to generate or purchase power. If supply can't keep up, the risk of outages increases. That's why using less energy during peak hours is more important than ever. It not only eases strain on the grid but also helps you save money.

So how can you "beat the peak"? Start by adjusting your thermostat a few degrees during peak hours. Smart thermostats can automate this for you.

Delay using energy-hungry appliances like ovens, clothes washers and dishwashers until later in the evening. Charging your electric vehicle overnight instead of right after you get home can also help.

Small actions taken by many households can lead to big results. When we all work together to reduce energy use during peak times, we protect our power grid, help control costs, and ensure reliable electricity for our communities.

PROTECT YOUR SMARTHUB ACCOUNT WITH TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION



Add an extra layer of security to your SmartHub account by enabling two-factor authentication. It's quick, easy and helps keep your personal information safe. Activate it in your settings today!

TRACTORS CAUSE MORE THAN
40% OF FATAL FARM ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CHILDREN.



Think twice before letting kids drive tractors; they are linked to **OVER 40% OF FATAL FARM ACCIDENTS WITH THOSE YOUNGER THAN 15.**

Most kids simply aren't big or strong enough to handle them safely. Make sure any youth operating equipment meets age, size and maturity guidelines.

SAFETY FIRST — EVERY TIME.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of "shoulder months," which refer to the transitional periods between peak heating and cooling seasons. During the fall, these milder weeks typically occur between September and November. Shoulder months offer a great opportunity to reduce home energy consumption as the need for extensive heating or cooling is reduced. Look for simple ways to boost indoor comfort without running your heating and cooling system. Use ceiling fans and open windows on breezy days to ventilate your home. On cooler days, add a layer of clothing and avoid running the heat.



Navigating Your New Electric Bill

Starting in September your bill will have a new look. You will find the same important information with some new features to make managing your account even easier.

Visit us online at www.bluestemelectric.com
Phone: (800) 558-1580
Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Important Messages

Bluestem offices will be closed on Monday, May 30th, in observance of Memorial Day.

Total Amount Due

\$136.21

Due Date: 06/01/22

Member Name: **JOHN DOE**
Account #: **999999999**

Billing Date: **05/10/2025**
Current Bill Due Date: **06/01/2025**

Previous Balance: \$128.31
Payment Received: -\$128.31
Adjustments: -\$5.72
Balance Forward: -\$5.72
Current Charges: \$141.93
Total Amount Due 06/01/22: **\$136.21**

Service Address: **123 ANY ST.**
Map Location: **9 813 A 124**
Service Description: **Irrigation Pump**

Description	Meter No.	Reading Dates From To	Readings Previous Present	Mult	kWh Usage	Demand Reading
8 RESIDENTIAL	12345678	04/10/22 05/10/22	24945 26292	1	1,347	6,000 - 05/31/25 22:00

Kilowatt Hours Monthly Use Average Avg Temp

Current Service Detail

Customer Charge		\$15.00
Energy Charge-Electric	500 kWh @ 0.07600	\$38.00
Energy Charge-Electric	500 kWh @ 0.08640	\$43.20
Energy Charge-Electric	347 kWh @ 0.09710	\$33.69
Power Cost Adjustment	1,347 kWh @ 0.00630	\$8.49
Gross Receipts Tax		\$3.55
Total Current Charges for this Location		\$141.93

Energy Usage Comparison

This Month: **1347 kWh** 30 days
Last Month: **926 kWh** 30 days
This Month Last Year: **1377 kWh** 31 days

Avg Daily Use: **45 kWh**
Avg Daily Cost: **\$4.61**
Avg Daily Temp: **83°F**

KEEP SEND

1000 South Wind Drive
Wamego, KS 66547-0005

PAY YOUR BILL 24/7
PAY BY PHONE (844) 973-2526

ONLINE: Electronic Check, or credit/debit card at www.bluestemelectric.com or download the SmartHub mobile app.
If paying by check, you authorize us to convert it to an electronic funds transfer.

DISCOVER VISA MasterCard

5655 0 AV 0.545 5 5655

JOHN DOE
123 ANY ST
ANYWHERE, USA 99999

BLUESTEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC
PO BOX 33
WAMEGO KS 66547-0033

160580010166510000280082000294086050620240

A TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: This section summarizes total amount due and due date. Automatic payment would be indicated if you participate in this program.

B YOUR ACCOUNT INFORMATION: Your billing date, account number and account name are listed here.

C BILLING SUMMARY: This section shows a summary of the current account balance. It takes the total of all the charges for the current bill, adds the balance forward, and displays the total amount due for the account.

D CONTACT INFORMATION: Ways to contact us about your bill or account are clearly noted on your bill.

E MESSAGE CENTER: Important information will be listed here, which may be unique to your account or provide news about the cooperative.

F GRAPH: The usage history graph displays your usage history over the past 13 months. It compares your most recent average monthly use to the same time period as the year prior.

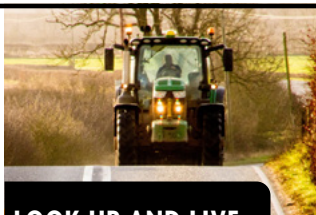
G CURRENT CHARGES: A detailed listing of the charges will be listed here.

H PAYMENT STUB: Return the bottom portion of your bill with your payment, especially if you have multiple accounts. This ensures that Bluestem applies the correct payment amount to your account(s).

YOUR SAFETY MATTERS

BE PREPARED THIS HARVEST SEASON!

Your electric cooperative reminds all farmers and farm workers to have a safe harvest season.



LOOK UP AND LIVE

Always be aware of overhead power lines when operating tall equipment like grain augers and combines.



KNOW WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

If your equipment contacts a power line, stay inside the cab and call 911. Only exit if there is immediate danger like a fire. If you must exit, jump clear without touching any part of the equipment, and hop away keeping feet together.



KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE

As you work, be aware of overhead power lines. Always maintain at least 20 feet of clearance from power lines and electrical equipment.



1 Confirm your cellphone number is listed on your account by calling the BEC office.

2 Visit <https://notifications.crc.coop/?uid=6727> or scan the QR code.

3 Accept the user agreement and complete an online form to create a text reporting account.

4 You will receive a text verification code on your cellphone. Enter the code into the form to confirm your account. Click submit. You are now ready to report an outage at your location(s).

5 If you have multiple accounts, you can add keywords based on service location (e.g. home, well, shop, irrigation, etc.). Use these keywords when texting outages (e.g., outage home, outage well) to help BEC crews to expedite restoration times.



SAFETY TIP

MAKE A PLAN. Talk with your family about where you will go and how you will stay in touch during an emergency.

BUILD AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT.

Gather supplies like water, non-perishable food, flashlights, batteries, medications and first-aid supplies.

STAY INFORMED. Sign up for local weather alerts and updates from your cooperative.



SEPTEMBER IS
**NATIONAL
PREPAREDNESS
MONTH**



TIPS TO AVOID UTILITY SCAMS



Solar energy is rising in popularity — and so are solar scams. If a salesperson knocks on your door promising free solar panels at zero cost or that you'll never have to pay your energy bill again, it's likely a scam. If you're interested in solar for your home, do your research, get multiple quotes from reputable, licensed providers, contact your electric co-op before installation, and take your time to ensure a smooth process. **SOURCE: FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**



BE AWARE OF OVERHEAD POWER LINES, UTILITY POLES AND OTHER ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT WHILE HUNTING.



- ▶ Keep clear of electrical equipment.
- ▶ Never shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- ▶ Be aware of power line and equipment locations where you hunt.
- ▶ Never place deer stands on utility poles.
- ▶ Never place decoys on power lines or other electrical equipment.