

Grants available to nonprofit entities



agribusiness, water, communications and power providers. CoBank is headquartered outside of Denver, Colo.

The Sharing Success program was launched by CoBank in 2012 and was designed to celebrate the vital role cooperatives play in individual communities across the country.

RDFC

Since NPEC is a member of the Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC), the co-op is eligible to apply for a grant of up to \$3,000 to be used to support community-owned entities, nonprofits and community-based projects.

Eligible projects include community-owned businesses (cafe, grocery store, motel, other); community facilities (ambulance services, fire districts, recreation, hospital/clinic, community center, other); or community-based projects (school/youth projects, other) that benefit rural areas and lead to community betterment.

RDFC makes these funds available, so more people become aware of its larger loan program that funds community-based projects and nonprofit entities with low-interest loans.

Contact Cheryl Belle, business manager, at 800-882-2500, with questions or to request an application. The application deadline is June 17. ■

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) is excited to partner with CoBank in the Sharing Success matching grant program once again this year.

NPEC's board of directors can decide to award up to four grants for a total of \$10,000. Matching funds will be requested through CoBank's Sharing Success program.

To qualify for the grant, an organization must be a certificated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, school or fire/ambulance department located within NPEC's service territory.

CoBank is a cooperative lending institution that provides loans and other financial services to vital industries throughout rural America, including

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Northern Plains Electric announces scholarship winner

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) is pleased to announce its 2023 Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship winner, Jaylen Anderson of York.

Jaylen is a senior at Leeds High School and the daughter of Shane Anderson and NPEC members April and Shane Duchscher. Jaylen is involved in various school activities, including basketball, volleyball, FFA, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, student council and the Leeds Youth Group. She plans to pursue her higher education at Minot State University, where she will work toward a bachelor's degree in radiologic technology.

The scholarship is based on many factors, including academics, extracurricular activities, community involvement and a written essay answering the question, "What challenges face rural electric cooperatives in the coming years and how do you think challenges should be addressed?"

NPEC is honored for the opportunity to play a small part in the education of young adults. ■



Jaylen Anderson

You're invited to Northern Plains Electric Cooperative's **ANNUAL MEETING**

When: June 13. Registration/complimentary meal from 5 to 6 p.m., with the business meeting starting at 6 p.m.

Where: Benson County Event Center in Maddock.

Why:

- Enjoy a free meal catered by Harriman's and dessert by Duchessa Gelato.
- Learn cooperative updates and industry issues and how they affect your electric service.
- Elect three members to serve on the board of directors.
- Receive a door prize and a chance at cash drawings.
- Two \$1,000 luck-of-the-draw college scholarships will be given to qualifying students. More information can be found at www.nplains.com.

TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING!

With the start of spring comes a fresh opportunity to find ways to save energy and money. As you work around your home this spring, here are some easy ways to also save on your energy bill as warmer temperatures arrive:

- 1. Service your air conditioner.** Easy maintenance such as routinely replacing or cleaning air filters can lower your cooling system's energy consumption by up to 15%. Also, check your air conditioner's evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually to ensure the system is performing at optimal levels.
- 2. Open windows.** Creating a breeze allows you to naturally cool your home without using air conditioners. If it's warmer during the day, open the windows in the evening and close them during the day. This is an ideal tactic in spring when temperatures are mild.
- 3. Use ceiling fans.** Cooling your home with ceiling fans will allow you to raise your thermostat four degrees. This can help lower your electricity bills without sacrificing overall comfort.
- 4. Clean out your fridge.** It's one of the biggest energy hogs in your whole home, with the average fridge using nearly 14% of a household's energy. By properly cleaning out your fridge, you can reduce its energy consumption and cut down your electricity bill. Start by rolling your refrigerator away from the wall and using a duster or vacuum hose to clear the dirt and dust from the coils. Remove unneeded and old food from your fridge to allow air to circulate and increase efficiency. If your fridge is located near the oven or is in direct sunlight, you may want to move it to a cooler location to make it easier for the appliance to maintain a cold temperature.
- 5. Install window treatments.** Energy-efficient window treatments or coverings, such as blinds, shades and films, can slash heat gain when temperatures rise. These devices not only improve the look of your home, but also reduce energy costs.
- 6. Caulk air leaks.** Using low-cost caulk to seal cracks and openings in your home keeps warm air out – and cash in your wallet.
- 7. Bring in sunlight.** During daylight hours, switch off artificial lights and use windows and skylights to brighten your home. And clean those windows for better effect.
- 8. Set the thermostat.** On warm days, setting a programmable thermostat to a higher setting when you are not at home can help reduce your energy costs by approximately 10%.
- 9. Seal ducts.** Air loss through ducts can lead to high electricity costs, accounting for nearly 30% of a cooling system's energy consumption. Sealing and insulating ducts can go a long way toward lowering your electricity bills.
- 10. Switch on bathroom fans.** Bathroom fans suck out heat and humidity from your home, improving comfort.





The 1912 Hackney Auto-Plow at the Dale and Martha Hawk Museum is one of three known to exist and the only one of the three in working order.

Farm history found at the Hawk Museum

BY BRITTNEE WILSON

As the story is told, when a Bowdon country girl met a young Wolford farmer, she had no idea she would be living on the grounds of a large antique farm machinery museum.

That country girl, Martha, married Dale Hawk in 1937 and they worked on their farmland near Wolford together. As the years passed, Dale's interest in restoring old farm machinery grew, as he often attended auction sales and made deals on anything that had not been sold. Martha often helped Dale with his hobby. She was quoted as saying, "Dale just loved the stuff and insisted that everything be restored exactly."

Dale also received help from his brother, Thor, spending hours reading machinery books to make sure everything was rebuilt the right way. Their collection quickly turned into a museum for those to view the restorations.

In the early 1950s, the couple opened the Dale and

Martha Hawk Museum, and they were incorporated in 1981. The "Hawk Museum" as locals call it, sets on 800 acres of beautiful farmland with plenty of space for the 13 buildings currently inhabiting the grounds, filled with a vast collection of tractors, antiques and thousands of farm implements, such as grain reapers, threshers and cultivators. The antique items look exactly like the day they were brought home in the early 1900s. The museum also holds an extremely large collection of anything pertaining to life on the northern prairies, such as antique cars, tools, household items and more.

Several old buildings from around the area were moved onto the property to create a tiny town. Guests are welcome to walk back in time with the general store, schoolhouse, post office, church and a clock house with a collection of more than 400 clocks inside.

At this unique museum, you will see one-of-a-kind

vehicles, like the unusual walking machine for going over rough terrain and the rare 1912 Hackney Auto-Plow. Dale found the Hackney tractor in the Oberon area and fully restored it. These tractors were built for the primary purpose of plowing, but could be operated the opposite direction to pull large implements. This rare tractor was only in production a few years before the company, Hackney Manufacturing Company in St. Paul, Minn., was destroyed by a fire. The company never recovered. The Hackney at the Dale and Martha Hawk Museum is one of only three known to exist, and the only one of the three still operational.

This rare tractor can be found on display at their annual antique farm show every June. Since 1990, thousands flock to the museum every second weekend in June for three-days filled with tractors, events, live music, food and more.

This year, the farm show, held June 9-11, will be in its 33rd year. During the three-day show, there will be demonstrations at the shingle mill, sawmill and blacksmith shop, and threshing of grain by using the old steam engines. There is a tractor parade every day, craft show, flea market and so much more! People come from all around the Midwest and Canada to experience the bygone era and connect with others who appreciate antiques.



The museum has expanded 60% since the Hawks' passing and is run by a board of directors and volunteers. As long as there are volunteers, the Dale and Martha Hawk Museum will be around to preserve the past, appreciate the present and educate the future. Find more information at www.hawkmuseum.org. ■



PLANNING A TRIP TO MEDORA THIS SUMMER?

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative is able to offer its members a discount by being a Touchstone Energy® member. Simply call **800-MEDORA-1** or visit www.medora.com and provide the discount code of **TOUCH2023** for a 15% discount off the following reservations:

- Tickets to the Medora Musical
- Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course
- Gospel Brunch tickets
- Old Town Theater shows
- Lodging at any of the following:
 - ◊ Elkhorn Quarters
 - ◊ Badlands Motel
 - ◊ Rough Riders Hotel
 - ◊ Medora Campground



Contractors may be in your area

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) has approximately 74,000 poles with about 3,900 miles of overhead line in its system, 2,781 miles of buried cable and serves over 11,500 meters. It takes a lot of moving parts to maintain the reliability of NPEC's system. Much of that maintenance needs to be squeezed into the spring and summer months.

To improve efficiency, NPEC hires contractors to work on some of the larger power line improvements, including pole testing, pole replacements, meter exchanges, plowing cable and cable locates. NPEC wants to inform our members that contractors may be in your area and they may need to access your property.

Pole testing

For the past couple years, NPEC has hired RAM Utilities, a utility service company from Moorhead, Minn., to inspect our utility poles to ensure they are safe. EXO, Magnolia, Texas, recently purchased RAM and will be doing pole inspections in 2023. EXO conducts a series of tests, including a visual inspection, a sound test and boring inspections, to determine if the pole is in need of treatment or replacement.

So far, 27,256 of 74,000 of NPEC's poles have been inspected. This spring, poles in southern Stutsman County are scheduled to be tested. EXO team members will be accessing all cooperative distribution lines using pickups and ATVs.

Pole replacements

Last year, 7,506 poles were tested in the Maddock, Bowdon and Fessenden areas. The rejected poles will be replaced by the co-op with help from Legacy Power Line Inc., Wadena, Minn., this summer. Most of these changeouts are being conducted "hot," meaning members will not lose power. It is important to note

a rejected pole is not in imminent danger of failure. The purpose of the inspection process is to prevent future issues.

Cable locating

To improve NPEC's efficiency, Summit Locating, Missoula, Mont., handles all underground cable locates in our system. By law, utilities only have 48 hours to get the lines marked, often pulling a crew member from our busy construction season to locate.

To make a locate request, by law, you must call 811 two or three days prior to the start of your project. The operator will notify all the utilities affected by your project, including NPEC. Wait two to three days for the affected utilities to respond to your request. Electric cables will be marked with red flags.

In 2022, Summit Locating conducted nearly 3,000 locates in the NPEC territory. Outsourcing our locates has allowed our crews to efficiently work on construction projects with little or no interruptions.

Construction

Integrity Contracting Inc., Shevlin, Minn., will be helping crews with plowing cable this summer. They will be working all around the NPEC service area, with two big projects scheduled for the Jamestown and Spiritwood Lake areas. Integrity uses a variety of equipment and vehicles, and may need to access your property. Its logo and name will be posted on its equipment.

Meter replacements

Starting in June, meter exchanges will be conducted in the southern part of NPEC's service territory. Members who have an older Power Line Carrier meter

will have their meter replaced with an AMI meter by our contractor, Chapman Metering, Avoca, Iowa.

“The reasons for the meter changes are twofold: the ages of these meters and the high meter maintenance costs we are experiencing as they age,” said Scott Buchholtz, NPEC’s manager of IT.

This will be the second year in NPEC’s planned meter maintenance program. New meters are actually in limited supply across the entire country, but we are anticipating our meter shipments to arrive yet this spring. NPEC started changing meters in 2021 on the south edge of our service area in Stutsman and Kidder counties. Last year, we had to pause this maintenance program due to supply chain issues creating insufficient new meter availability. However, the program will continue to move north across our service territory over the next two years, so we hope to complete our meter maintenance by the end of 2024.

Members in northern Stutsman, northern Kidder, western Griggs, Foster, Wells, Eddy and the Oberon area of Benson counties are first on the list for a meter exchange this summer. These members will be notified by an automated telephone call from a toll-free number, when the meter changes are expected to take place in their area. If possible, we will continue to progress northward in 2023 to exchange meters from Oberon all the way north to Cando by late this fall, but that will depend on both adequate new meter deliveries happening and a late fall occurring, so we will provide updated information later this year.

Our contractor for this, Chapman Metering, will be driving white service vans with its company name and the NPEC name on them.

Give us a call

To be informed when our meter maintenance program will be in your area, your current telephone number must be on file. To update your information, contact our office, 800-882-2500.

If you’d like to confirm whether a contractor working in your area is employed by NPEC, give us a call. Vehicles will be either marked with one of the following company names or with an NPEC logo. They may have out-of-state license plates. Provided is a list of contractors hired by NPEC: EXO, Texas; Legacy Power Line, Minnesota; Summit Locating, Montana; Chapman Metering, Iowa; Integrity Contracting, Minnesota. ■



Operation Round Up approves charitable grants

At its March meeting, the Northern Plains Electric Cooperative Operation Round Up board of directors approved grants totaling \$8,500 to help support worthy causes.

These charitable grants are made possible through the generosity of Northern Plains Electric Cooperative members who voluntarily elect to have their electric bills rounded up to the next dollar. The donated amount averages about 50 cents a month for each participating member and raises approximately \$37,000 each year. Since the program's beginning in October 1998, grants totaling \$908,737 have been awarded to 1,259 local charitable causes.

Grants approved in March include:

- Shane Peterson, Rugby, medical expenses
- Edith Arney, Cando, medical expenses
- Towner County Historical Society, veterans memorial project
- Viking Lutheran Church, Maddock, entry/disability accessibility project
- Circle Cross Riding Club, Jamestown, new electric service project
- Bowdon Development Center Inc., Bowdon High School window project

If you would like additional information about this worthy program, please contact Northern Plains Electric Cooperative by calling 800-882-2500 or you may obtain guidelines or download applications at www.nplains.com. The board will meet again in June to review applications. The application deadline is May 20. ■



PLAY TO WIN
\$25 CREDIT FROM
Northern Plains Electric

Congratulations to our latest winner,
Scott & Gwen Dubord from **Jamestown**.
 Thank you for entering the March bill
 insert crossword puzzle contest.

Regularly check bill inserts for future contests.



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