

# The Wheat Belt Connection



JUNE 2026



*Photo Courtesy of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association*

## IN THIS ISSUE

Save on Upgrades with Available Rebates  
**3-A/D**

Wheat Belt Welcomes Kathryn Kratzer to the  
WBPPD Family  
**3-B**

Wheat Belt Welcomes Brooke Darden to the  
WBPPD Family  
**3-C**

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month  
**3-D**

## Save on Upgrades with Available Rebates

**BY: CUSTOMER RELATIONS TEAM**

Replacing equipment can be costly, but as a customer of Wheat Belt Public Power District, you have access to rebate programs. Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association can help offset the cost of upgrades and energy-efficient equipment. Energy efficient appliances can help reduce energy use and could lower your bill. There are many different rebates available; however, with irrigation season upon us, it is vital to understand what is available this season.

Replacing a motor can be a significant investment whether it fails from a lightning strike, normal wear and tear, an upgrade is needed or you have decided to convert the diesel motor to an electric motor.

This is where Wheat Belt Public Power District can help. If you have recently purchased and installed a new motor, you may qualify for a rebate to help offset part of the cost.

*Continued on 3-D*

# Our hours have changed.

*New Hours, Same Service*

**May 4, 2026 - October 18, 2026**  
**6:30 AM to 5:00 PM**  
**Monday - Thursday**

*\*8-hour days will begin on October 19, 2026.*



## BEYOND THE DESK

Meet the Newest Member of the Team



Kathryn Kratzer is one of Wheat Belt's newest employees serving as our Accounting Specialist. Growing up in Sidney, Nebraska, and then attending Chadron State College, she provides

great knowledge after completing her degree in Business Administration with a minor in management. Even though it wasn't planned, Kathryn also has a minor in art. Her family is all local, including her parents, her brother, and his growing family. Kathryn's brother is also a lineman for Tri-State Generation and Transmission.

### **Why did you decide to work for Wheat Belt?**

I decided to work for Wheat Belt for many reasons, mainly the people. I could tell when I came in for the interview that everyone out here is like a family. I really love how close-knit everyone is.

### **What do you like to do in your free time?**

I spend most of my free time with my boyfriend, Brayden Haley. I have also been trying to learn how to

golf, which is a lot harder than I thought it would be, so my dad and I have been spending a lot of time on the course in Chappell.

### **What are you most excited about in joining Wheat Belt?**

I am most excited about learning something new. Accounting is not something I have done professionally, but I love a challenge, and am really enjoying everything so far.

### **What do you like most about working at Wheat Belt?**

I like a lot of things about working at Wheat Belt. If I had to pick, I would say I would like that I can go to anyone with a question or problem and they will help me through it.

### **Do you have any other skills that people may not know about?**

I love to play the guitar. I taught myself how to play during my senior year of college.

# BEYOND THE DESK

## Meet the Newest Member of the Team



Brooke Darden is Wheat Belt's Employee Services and Communications Administrator. Darden was previously at High West Energy (HWE) in Pine Bluffs, WY for about four years as their

Communications and Marketing Coordinator. Darden is a graduate of Laramie County Community College, as well as the University of Wyoming (UW), where she received her Bachelor and Master of Arts in Communication. Darden taught public speaking at UW, as well as at Northwestern Colorado Community College. Her family resides in Eastern Laramie County in Wyoming.

### **What do you like most about working at Wheat Belt?**

Not only am I passionate about this industry and furthering Wheat Belt's mission, but the people are also amazing. The best part of this job is the people I work with and being able to serve our customers. Everyone has been so welcoming, and I am so happy to be here.

### **What do you like to do in your free time?**

I love spending time with my family and friends, and being involved in the community. Whether it is supporting my boyfriend as he coaches baseball or showing my family around the community, I love staying connected. I love being outdoors, walking my dog, reading, and continuing to grow in my faith.

### **How did you get into this line of work?**

I grew up in the cooperative world, as my dad was an accountant at HWE for 20 years. After graduating from college, a position opened at HWE, and I applied. I enjoy this industry and serving others, so when this position opened, it was a great opportunity to get involved in the community and continue working in a great industry.

### **Do you have any other skills that people may not know about?**

I love to sing! I grew up singing with my mom at Cheyenne Frontier Days, and I have loved it ever since.

## LUCKY DRAWING

Wheat Belt Public Power District (WBPPD) is pleased to announce Frank and Candy Lussetto as our May Lucky Draw winners. Frank has been farming under WBPPD since 1974, while Candy serves the community as a nurse in Bridgeport. Together, they've built a strong family, with three children living in various locations and six grandchildren.

The Lussettos received a \$50 credit on their account for their prompt payment. If you would like to be included in our next drawing, and avoid a \$5 delinquent fee, please send your payment before the 16th of the month.

For your convenience, we offer several payment options. Please give us a call at 308-254-5871, or visit the Customer Engagement page on our website for more information.

## TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Protect your accounts by enabling multi-factor authentication (MFA) wherever possible. MFA adds an extra layer of security by requiring a second step—like a code sent to your phone or an authentication app—beyond just your password. Even if a scammer steals your login information through phishing or data breaches, MFA can stop them from accessing your account. Choose app-based authentication over text messages when available, as it's more secure. Taking a few minutes to turn on MFA for email, banking and additional online accounts can significantly reduce your risk of identity theft and financial loss.

Source: [staysafeonline.org](http://staysafeonline.org)



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

During these warm summer months, a smart thermostat can help keep your home comfortable while reducing cooling costs. Smart thermostats learn your routine and automatically raise the temperature when you're away and cool things down before you return, avoiding unnecessary energy use. You can also adjust settings remotely from your phone, so you're never cooling an empty house. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher while you're away or asleep can lead to significant savings. Many smart thermostats provide reports and tips, helping you fine-tune your energy use and stay cool while keeping your electric bill in check.

### MAIN HEADQUARTERS:

P.O. Box 177  
11306 Road 32, Sidney, NE 69162

### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday  
6:30 AM - 5:00 PM

### CONTACT US:

P: 308.254.5871  
T: 800.261.7114  
[wheatbelt@wheatbelt.com](mailto:wheatbelt@wheatbelt.com)  
[www.wheatbelt.com](http://www.wheatbelt.com)

### Save on Upgrades with Rebates cont'd from 3-A

To be eligible for rebates, you must be a customer of WBPPD and the appliance or equipment must be installed on a WBPPD service location. Proof of purchase is required, and documentation for Energy Star® products must be provided when applicable.

Rebates must be applied for within 90 days of purchase. You can submit the required documentation by email at [rebates@wheatbelt.com](mailto:rebates@wheatbelt.com), deliver it to our office, or send it by mail or fax. Upon approval, rebates will be issued by WBPPD in the form of a credit on your bill, by ACH or a check mailed to you. For more information regarding our rebate program, please visit our website.

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## OUR MISSION

Deliver electricity safely, reliably  
and efficiently.