



November 2023

THE WHEAT BELT CONNECTION

Governance of Wheat Belt PPD A Dive Into The Board Of Directors



LACEY GULBRANSON
General Manager/CEO

In the October issue of the Nebraskan Magazine, I wrote an article about the role of the board of directors. We are going to use this month to dive a bit deeper into Wheat Belt's Board of Directors. The board consists of seven members serving six-year terms. These members are elected during general elections. Three of your board members represent the northern subdistrict which consists of Wheat Belt's service territory in Morrill, Garden and Keith counties. Marcus (Marc) Milunak from the Oshkosh area, Brian (Moe) Moffat from the Oshkosh area and Toni Blumenkamp from the Broadwater area are the three Directors representing the northern subdistrict. Four of your members represent the southern subdistrict which includes Wheat Belt's service territory in Cheyenne and Deuel counties. Stuart Morgan from the Dalton area, Brian Zimmerman from the Big Springs area, Jennifer Eckhardt from the Dalton area and Collin Anderson from the Gurley area are the Directors representing the southern subdistrict. Board officers and special appointments are elected each January. Currently, the officers and special appointments are as follows: Brian Zimmerman, President; Stuart Morgan, Vice President and Tri-State G&T board representative; Marc Milunak, Treasurer and NREA (state association) board representative; Moe

Continued on 12-B



LUCKY DRAWING



Congratulations to Chris and Florence Ray, our September "Lucky Draw Winner"!

Chris & Florence have four children, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild. They live south of Chappell, Nebraska and have been Wheat Belt Customers for a long time.

They operate Ray Ranch consisting of a cow/calf operation, raise alfalfa, corn, wheat and milo, and operate a feedlot. Chris and Florence have also owned Federal Crop Agency for many years.

The Ray's continue to work daily and enjoy fishing and traveling in their spare time.

Chris and Florence 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 wheatbelt.com, and select the Customer Engagement page for more information.



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Editor - Kelli Chaon

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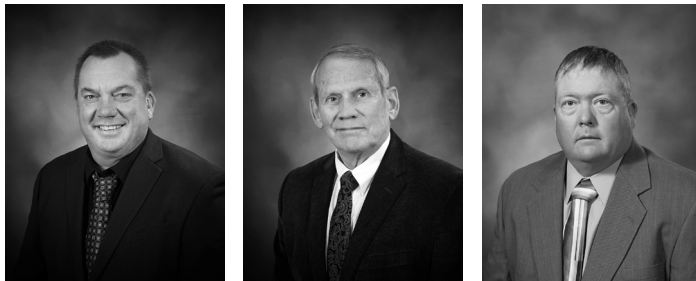
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Governance of Wheat Belt PPD cont'd from 12-A

Moffat, Secretary; and Toni Blomenkamp, Assistant Secretary. In addition to these appointments, Wheat Belt is affiliated with several organizations where a voting delegate is sent to participate in decisions at regional or annual meetings.

The Wheat Belt Board of Directors meets on the fourth Friday of each month at 8:30 a.m. These meetings are open to the public. Meeting notices can be found on our website at www.wheatbelt.com and are also published in the Sidney Sun Telegraph.



Top row L to R: **Brian Zimmerman, Stuart Morgan and Moe Moffat.**

Middle row L to R: **Toni Blomenkamp, Jennifer Eckhardt and Collin Anderson.**

Bottom row: **Marcus Milanuk.**

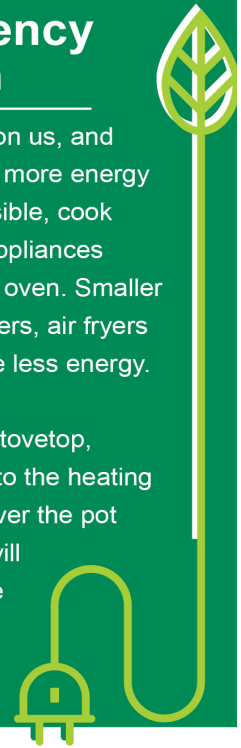


Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The holiday season is upon us, and that means we'll be using more energy in the kitchen. When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the stovetop or oven. Smaller appliances like slow cookers, air fryers and Instant Pots consume less energy.

When using the oven or stovetop, match the size of the pot to the heating element and place a lid over the pot while cooking. The food will cook faster, and you'll use less energy.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Benefits of Public Power



Not-For-Profit

Our state is the only one in the nation that is totally served by public power. Other states have investor-owned utilities that are in the business to make money. Electric utilities in Nebraska are in business to provide affordable, reliable, and safe electricity.



Local Control

With public power, decisions are made at the local level by publicly elected officials who are community residents, not shareholders from out of state. Customers can also have input on the priorities of the utilities by attending monthly board meetings open to the public.



Community Minded

Public power utilities can be an economic boom for smaller communities. Local payments made in-lieu-of-taxes help lower everyone's tax burden, and utility revenues get invested in programs and services that best suit local values and needs.



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Wheat Belt Employees Have **CARTASTIC** Hobbies

DERBY



Chase Armstrong (Lead Journeyman Lineman)

Chase has a passion for the “Derby Life”. Not only does he participate in many derbies in the area, but he is also mentoring a local 16-year old high school student to help him learn the sport and to build and work on his own derby cars. Chase can be found working on and building derby cars year round (as long as it’s not hunting season). The “hobby” is a family affair as his wife (Emma) has been spotted driving a time or two, his daughter, Savi, is dad’s #1 fan and his son, Riggs, loves helping dad out in the shop building cars.

Chase’s 2023 Results

1st @ Sidney (Compact Class)
3rd @ Cheyenne (Compact Class)
1st @ Sedgwick (Heavy Hitter Compact)
1st @ Kimball (Compact Class)

CAR SHOW



A group of current and former employees of Wheat belt entered the car show at Octoberfest in Sidney. For some it was a first, for others it was just another day at the park.....

1. Chris Schilz (Purchasing/Inventory Coordinator)

Chris entered his 1979 Jeep Cherokee Chief. This was his 2nd car show to participate in and he walked away with the “People’s Choice Award”! Chris also is an avid fisherman and loves spending time on the lake with family and friends.

2. Carolyn Hostetler (Former Chief Financial Officer)

Carolyn retired from Wheat Belt after 45 years of service in 2022. At the spry age of 82, she entered her 1984 Dodge D350 in her very first car show.

3. Greg Jenkins (Area 4 Foreman)

Greg entered his 1969 Ford Bronco into his very first car show at Octoberfest. In his spare time, Greg enjoys working on old vehicles and recently purchased a Ford pickup to rebuild.

4. Kurt Cleveland (Engineering Technician)

Kurt is a seasoned professional in regards to car shows and drag racing. Ever since high school he can be found at one or the other throughout the year. Kurt and his wife (Brittany) organized the car show at the Dalton Fall Festival for many years. Kurt entered his 1973 Nova Super Sport into the Octoberfest Car Show this year. The bottom photo is of Kurt’s Nova along with some high school buddies cars that they have all had since high school.

THE STEPS TO RESTORING POWER

When the power goes out, line crews work hard to restore electricity as quickly and safely as possible. To ensure the process is done efficiently, line crews follow specific steps to restore power. Can you order the steps below to match how power is restored?

Hint: Check your work in the answer key.



STEP

Tap lines are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers that are either mounted on utility poles or placed on pads for underground electric service.



STEP

Distribution power lines are inspected. These are the lines you typically see on the side of the road that deliver power to communities.



STEP

Large, high-voltage transmission lines are inspected for damage. These power lines deliver large amounts of electricity over great distances.



STEP

Service lines are inspected. These are the power lines that run **between the transformer and your home**.



STEP

Distribution substations are inspected. These facilities lower the voltage of power, then send power to distribution lines.



Answer Key: 4, 5, 1, 5, 2

Moe's

Brian (Moe) Moffat

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VICE PRESIDENT

Stuart Morgan, *Dalton*

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TREASURER

Marcus Milanuk, *Oshkosh*

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Toni Blomenkamp, *Broadwater*

DIRECTOR

Jennifer Eckhardt, *Dalton*

DIRECTOR

Collin Anderson, *Dalton*

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MANAGER OF CORPORATE SERVICES / CFO

Sharrell Keane

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Rollie Waite

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Mark Cape

MANAGER OF TECHNOLOGIES

Jim Weeda

CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Kelli Chaon

OFFICE HOURS:

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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wheatbelt@wheatbelt.com

Our Mission

Deliver electricity safely, reliably and efficiently.