



May 2024



On the Farm

Handle Irrigation Equipment With Care

A central-pivot or other type of irrigation system is equipment that many farmers rely on to water crops. The systems can run on electricity or by other means such as diesel fuel or water pressure.

Wheat Belt Public Power and Safe Electricity would like to remind anyone in the agricultural industry that moving irrigation pipes can be extremely dangerous around power lines. The watering pipes can be made of aluminum, a great conductor of electricity.

Wheat Belt and Safe Electricity offer these irrigation safety tips:

- Be extremely careful when assembling or moving long sections of irrigation pipes.
- Always consider your location and the length of the pipe you are holding.
- Make sure the pipe’s long reach will not come near or into contact with power lines.
- If the pipe touches or comes too close to a power line, you could be electrocuted.
- Do not store, handle or assemble irrigation pipes under or near overhead power lines.
- In fact, do not store (or park) anything under power lines.

Installation and Maintenance

Although farmers are usually great at fixing anything and everything, it’s a good idea to have a qualified electrician install and maintain your



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Editor - Kelli Chaon

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LUCKY DRAWING

Congratulations to Pat and DeAnn Ernest, our March “Lucky Draw Winner”!

Pat and DeAnn have four grown children and three grandchildren. They have lived in the Dalton area over 35 years and own and operative a farming operation.

Pat and DeAnn 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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Let's meet the 2024 Scholarship Recipients

Wheat Belt Public Power District and our partners, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, and Arbor Wealth Management awarded scholarships to five outstanding area students. Our scholarship program is designed to recognize achievements and provide financial assistance to students of our customers. We believe investing in the education of our youth is a shared responsibility and is in the best interest of our communities and businesses.

\$2,000
Wheat Belt
Lineman
Scholarship



**Peyton
Abbott**

Peyton will be a Freshman at Mitchell Technical College, Major Course of Study: Powerline Construction and Maintenance. Peyton is the son of Bill and Angel Abbott of Dalton, Nebraska.

\$1,000
Basin
Scholarship



**Jonathan
Kruse**

Jonathan will be a Freshman at Mitchell Technical College, Major Course of Study: Powerline Construction and Maintenance. Jonathan is the son of Shawn and Janella Kruse of Gurley, Nebraska.

Let's meet more 2024 Scholarship Recipients

\$500
Tri-State
Scholarship



**Claire
Watchorn**

Claire will be a Freshman at Western Nebraska Community College, Major Course of Study: Nursing. Claire is the daughter of Ryan and Becky Watchorn of Sidney, Nebraska.

\$500
Tri-State
Scholarship



**Justin
Dobrinski**

Justin will be a Freshman at Southwest Community College, Major Course of Study: Agronomy. Justin is the son of Richard and Holly Dobrinski of Bridgeport, Nebraska.

\$500
Arbor Wealth
Scholarship



**Kason
Loomis**

Kason will be a Sophomore at Casper College, Major Course of Study: Fire Science. Kason is the son of Cody and Naomi Loomis of Alliance, Nebraska.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Looking for an easy way to manage home energy use? Smart plugs are inexpensive and offer convenient solutions for scheduling and controlling your favorite electronic devices.

With smart plugs, you can easily manage your coffee maker, lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. Smart plugs can help you manage devices through a smart phone app, your home assistant or voice control. By conveniently powering off or scheduling devices, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: energystar.gov

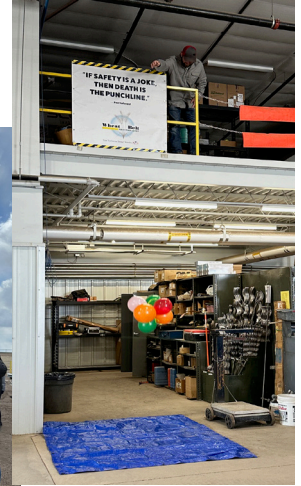


May Is Electric Safety Month

BY: LACEY GULBRANSON
General Manager/CEO

Spring has sprung, which means we are much more active outdoors. May is Electric Safety month, here are a few good reminders when working and playing outside: know what's below before you dig (dial 8-1-1 to have your local electric or national guess company representative mark the location of underground lines for free), never touch downed power lines, watch for overhead power lines, do not overload outdoor electrical and/or extension cords or allow them to run through water or snow on the ground.

From an electric worker's perspective our employees attend a safety meeting each month. Topics include personal grounding, personal protective equipment, working on/near roadways, pneumatic and hydraulic tool safety, bucket truck and pole top rescue, and much more. One key component of safety is relationship building to gain trust, as trust is a large component to a safe work environment. In March, we took a bit of time to interact differently than normal for relationship and trust building. After our quarterly all-employee meeting the employees broke into teams for an egg drop challenge. They had a great time, engineering and creating a safe place for their egg before being dropped. We've included a few pictures that we hope you enjoy.



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On The Farm cont'd from 12-A

irrigation's electricals, which must meet the National Electrical Code. Hire one who is experienced and well-versed in irrigation systems.

You might take for granted your irrigation electricals are working properly, but they need proper attention:

- If your electrically driven center pivot system is not working correctly, it could be deadly or hazardous.
- If electrical equipment or wiring is faulty, you could get shocked or electrocuted.
- Irrigation systems run by an electric motor must be properly grounded with copper piping.
- A system's electricals should have a fuse or some means of disconnection.
- If lightning strikes your irrigation equipment, it could mean that the system is no longer grounded.
- Always shut off and lock the master control switch before servicing the machine.
- Inspect the pump and wiring before the start of each irrigation season and consult your electrician with any concerns.

In general, talk to everyone in your family (including kids and teens) about the dangers of moving pipes. Teach irrigation safety to all staff and seasonal workers. Family members or workers might try to rearrange pipes for coverage or move them to free an animal and not realize how close they are to an overhead power line. In addition, they may try to use an electrical system that is damaged or not properly grounded.

We care about your safety. Please contact us with any concerns about electrical issues, power lines, irrigation equipment or any other safety concerns related to electricity.

For more information about electrical safety, go to SafeElectricity.org.



Play it safe near grain bins.

When moving equipment, be aware of power lines and maintain at least a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety. Follow all guidelines set by the National Electrical Safety Code.

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