

Photo: Terri Barrett, August Calendar Photo Contest Winner

# NEWSLETTER

August 2025

## The Agralite Office Is Temporarily By Appointment Only

We are excited to announce that we have relocated to our new headquarters facility! While we are settling into this new space, please call ahead before stopping by. With contractors on-site, activity in the parking lot, and outside work in progress, scheduling an appointment will help us serve you better during this transition. Our office number is 320-843-4150 or 800-950-8375.

Out of respect for the ongoing work, we kindly ask that you hold off on any non-business visits or tours at this time. We're excited to show you around our new facility once everything is complete at our open house later this fall. Thank you again for your patience and support!

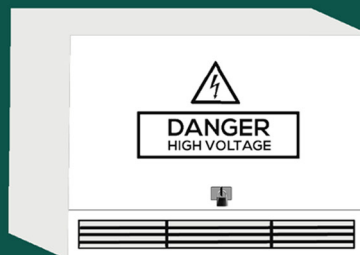
### Ways to Pay Your Bill

Members are encouraged to pay their bill using these payment methods:

- **Auto Pay:** Set it and forget it with automatic monthly payments.
- **Secure Pay:** Call anytime, anywhere at 855-938-3648.
- **SmartHub:** Our member-friendly web or mobile app helps you manage your account from anywhere!
- **By Mail:** PO Box 228, Benson, MN 56215
- **Drop Box:** Located outside our office building

## Safety Tip

Keep plants and fences away from green transformer boxes — especially the padlocked side. Utility crews need at least 10 feet in front and 4 feet on the sides to work safely and quickly during outages. Keep a clear path to the transformer — even if it's in your yard, it's technically on an easement, and they still need access!



 **Safe Electricity.org®**

**EMPOWERING**  
communities

with innovative  
and sustainable  
energy solutions

FOR OVER  
**85**  
YEARS

## CONTENTS

**PAGE 1 ►** The Agralite Office Is Temporarily By Appointment Only, Safety Tip

**PAGE 2 ►** 2025 Energy Tour, Find Your Account Number And Win, Energy Saving Tip

**PAGE 3 ►** Legislative Recap Supporting Reliable And Affordable Energy, Tips To Avoid Energy Scams, 5 Year Service Anniversary: John Lysen

**PAGE 4 ►** 2026 Calendar Photo Contest, Electric Cooperatives Send Minnesota's Students To Washington, D.C.

**PAGE 5 ►** Electric Cooperatives Send Minnesota's Students To Washington, D.C., Cont., Three Smart Home Technologies To Help You Save Energy, Switch And Save

**PAGE 6 ►** Board Meeting Minutes, Hydropower Word Search

**Agralite Electric Co-op**  
*We're member-owned!*

320 US-12, Benson, MN  
(320) 843-4150  
1-800-950-8375  
[www.agralite.coop](http://www.agralite.coop)

 Like us on Facebook



**Summer Office Hours:**  
**7:00AM – 3:30PM**

**Closed Sept. 1 – Labor Day**



Touchstone Energy®

Agralite is a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative.





## Find your account number and win a \$100 credit!

If your account number (as it appears on your monthly electric bill) is one of the [four account numbers](#) hidden in this issue, give our office a call by the end of the month and you will receive a \$100 bill credit. If more than one member finds their account number in a single issue, \$100 will be split equally amongst them.

### Congratulations

to Loren Lozinski for finding his account number in the June newsletter.

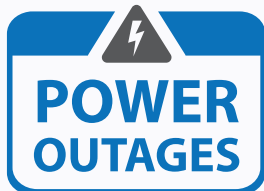
### Energy Saving Tip:



Replace your cooling system's filter regularly to maintain strong airflow and boost energy efficiency.

A clean filter means your system doesn't have to work as hard, saving energy, and lowering your utility bills. Factors like allergies and pets in home can impact how often filters should be replaced. Check the filter every month and replace it as needed. Changing filters regularly also reduces wear and tear on your cooling system, helping extend the life of the unit.

Source: [energy.gov](#)



Call Day or Night  
**1.888.884.3887**

[Do not call the office for outages](#)

August Energy Payment is due September 20.\*

\*We accept Visa, Discover, and Mastercard.

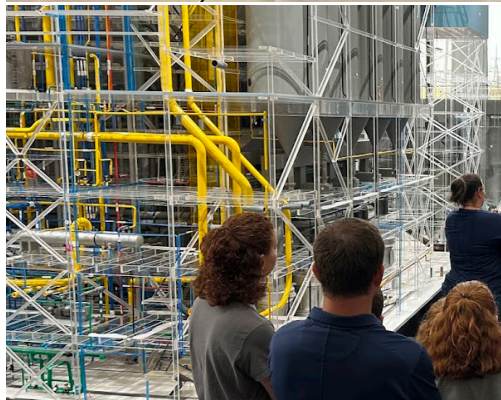


## 2025 Energy Tour

Twenty-two of Agralite's members, along with members from Meeker Cooperative, enjoyed a three-day luxury coach tour to North Dakota's coal country June 11-13. They saw how electric power is generated at a lignite coal plant, how a coal-gasification plant produces natural gas, and visited the North Dakota History Museum.

This fun and educational trip included a tour of these facilities:

- Basin Electric Power's Antelope Valley Power Station near Beulah, ND
- Great Plains SynFuels Plant
- The Coteau Properties Freedom Coal Mine
- Garrison Dam Hydropower Generation Plant 1577801
- The North Dakota History Center
- Lewis & Clark Riverboat Dinner Cruise





Legislative Recap Supporting Reliable And Affordable Energy

The 2025 Minnesota legislative session officially wrapped up on June 9th following a one-day special session to finalize the state budget. Throughout the session, the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) worked on behalf of Minnesota’s electric cooperatives to advocate for policies that support reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy for member-owners across the state.

While some of the most high-profile political debates made headlines this year, Agralite Electric Cooperative was focused on protecting the interests of co-op member-owners at the Capitol. We advocated for fair, common-sense energy policy and helped defeat several costly new mandates.

One of our major priorities was reforming Minnesota’s outdated net metering law, which currently requires cooperatives to pay above-market retail rates for excess electricity from rooftop solar systems. This policy results in increased energy costs for cooperatives, which results in a cost shift, forcing disproportionately poorer co-op members without solar panels to subsidize those who can afford them. Legislation to modernize this policy came close to passing and gained strong momentum. Though it wasn’t included in the final budget package, our coalition grew as policymakers understood the inequity of the current law. We’ll continue to work on this issue in the year ahead.

We also led efforts to lift Minnesota’s moratorium on new nuclear energy. MREA helped form and lead the Minnesota Nuclear Energy Alliance—a diverse coalition of nearly 40 stakeholders representing utilities, labor, business, agriculture and the environment—to push for access to next-generation nuclear power. 1182700 These new technologies offer safe, carbon-free, around-the-clock power that could help meet Minnesota’s carbon-free electricity goals. While the moratorium remains in place, support is growing rapidly across the state. We are hopeful our strong coalition will soon end Minnesota’s outdated nuclear moratorium once and for all. It’s time to allow Minnesotans to have this important conversation.

Want to stay informed and make a difference? Join Voices for Cooperative Power (VCP) — a grassroots network of electric cooperative member-owners who care about affordable, reliable energy and protecting the cooperative way of life. It’s a free, easy way to stay updated on key policy issues, and when the time comes, VCP makes it simple to contact your lawmakers and make your voice count.

Visit [voicesforcooperativepower.com/register](https://voicesforcooperativepower.com/register) to sign up. As always, thank you for your continued interest in your electric cooperative.

JOIN TODAY

VCP

Voices for Cooperative Power

United for Stronger Communities



SCAN ME TO LEARN MORE AND JOIN!

LOOKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND FOR YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE? THEN JOIN VCP!

VCP is a network of electric co-op members working together to influence public policy decisions that impact our co-ops and our way of life.

 VOICESFORCOOPERATIVEPOWER.COM

@VOICES4COOPS

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Delete deceptive emails. If you receive an email that appears to be from your electric utility but you are unsure about it, delete it.

Never click on a link, open an attachment, or send a reply to an untrusted source. When in doubt, contact your utility directly to report suspected email scams.



Source: Utilities United Against Scams

Service ANNIVERSARY

5 YEARS

John Lysen

Serving as Custodian for 5 years, John started a new position as Agralite’s Locator in July 2025.



Thank you for your dedicated years of service to Agralite Electric Cooperative!

# Agralite Electric Cooperative

## 2026 Calendar Photo Contest

### *Back By Popular Demand!*

Agralite is seeking local photographs for our 2026 calendar contest. Photos should be of a landscape, natural element, or interesting view from within the Agralite service territory. We want you to share the diversity and wonder of our local landscape.

Photo entries are limited to Agralite members and must be submitted by **October 3rd, 2025.**

Digital photos only. You must specify the subject of the photo and where it was taken. Please include your contact information, account number, phone number, and address in your submission.

Selected photos will receive a \$15 bill credit. Cover photo will receive a \$30 bill credit. Photos will be selected by Agralite employees. Please limit 5 photo submissions per member - 1 winning photo per member.

**Submit Your Photos To:**  
[mchevalier@agralite.com](mailto:mchevalier@agralite.com)

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).



### Electric Cooperatives Send Minnesota's Students To Washington, D.C.

Twenty-nine Minnesota high school students recently returned from a trip-of-a-lifetime to Washington, D.C. Electric cooperatives across Minnesota selected students and awarded them an all-expense-paid trip to see the sites and learn about the political process in our nation's capital city.

The statewide trip is sponsored by each electric cooperative that sends students, coordinated by the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) and hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Nearly 2,000 students from across the United States attend the activity-filled week and learn firsthand about politics, community development, and the governmental process with peers from nearly every state in the nation.

The week-long Youth Tour also consisted of learning about current issues, American history, electric cooperatives, and meeting with elected officials, including Minnesota senators. Students made new friends and memories, saw many sites and memorials, and learned about our nation's history.

"This was an incredible opportunity, and I'm so thankful you selected me. The tour truly gave me a front row seat and opportunity to hear from our Minnesota senators, and it gave me a much deeper understanding of the electric cooperative business model. Visiting with congressional representatives and touring the historic monuments and museums was an unforgettable experience. We got to see a lot of monuments and memorials including the Washington monument, the Lincoln Memorial, the Iwo Jima statue, and others. We also got to go to many museums including the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, the Library of Congress building, the National Museum of Natural History, etc. I made so many new friends and memories that I'll cherish for a lifetime. Thank you again for this amazing trip. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime adventure, and I'm so grateful for your generosity and commitment to supporting students like me." Charlie Molenaar, from Agralite Electric Cooperative, said.

*Article continues on page 5*



Charlie Molenaar



## Electric Cooperatives Send Minnesota's Students To Washington, D.C.

*Continued*

"Youth Tour is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the students," MREA CEO Darrick Moe said. "We are happy to work with our local cooperatives and provide the opportunity for these great students to see and experience Washington, D.C. They also had the opportunity to learn what makes the cooperative business model an excellent way to provide reliable and affordable power throughout Minnesota."

Each year, one student from the Minnesota delegation is selected by their peers to represent Minnesota on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC). Mukhopadhyay was selected as the YLC delegate and will return to Washington, D.C., in July to focus on leadership skills, and then next year, he will participate in the NRECA's annual meeting.

In addition to taking in the sights and sounds of Washington, D.C., all state groups convened for Rural Electric Youth Day to learn from public figures and inspirational speakers. Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist and two-time World Champion wheelchair basketball champion, gave an inspiring message for every American, young or old: "Just because you can't stand up doesn't mean you can't stand out." The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has been a joint effort of local electric co-ops, the MREA, and the NRECA, since 1964. In that time, more than 60,000 high school students from the nation's cooperative electric utilities have visited their U.S. congressional lawmakers, attended grassroots government education sessions, and enjoyed sightseeing in Washington, D.C.

### Three Smart Home Technologies to Help You Save Energy

If you're looking for new ways to save energy, try these budget-friendly, convenient smart home technologies. By connecting to your home Wi-Fi network, the following smart devices automate everyday tasks like lighting, heating, cooling and home security, and can even communicate with other smart devices in the home.

#### Smart Thermostats

Smart or not, your thermostat is the most effective tool for controlling energy use, as heating and cooling typically account for the largest portion of energy bills. Smart thermostats allow you to adjust the indoor temperature through an app, giving you full control from anywhere on the go. Many smart thermostats include learning capabilities and will adjust the thermostat based on previous behavior and patterns. According to the Department of Energy, smart thermostats can reduce heating and cooling bills by more than 8% annually, and with models as low as \$65, they typically pay for themselves in one year.

#### Smart Lighting

Smart LED bulbs use less electricity than traditional bulbs and can be scheduled or turned off (or on) remotely through a smart phone app. Smart bulbs come in a range of shapes, brightness levels, colors, and more. Many smart bulbs include motion sensors that turn on or off based on room activity, further optimizing home energy use. If you're new to smart lighting, try a home starter kit. Prices for kits range from \$70 to \$300+ depending on how many bulbs you need.

#### Smart Plugs

Many electronic devices consume power even when they are turned off (known as "phantom load"), which can take a toll on your energy bills. Smart plugs are simply plugged into an electrical outlet and connected to your Wi-Fi network. When set up, the smart plug can help save energy by cutting power (or returning power) to non-smart devices, like coffee makers, phone chargers, and other items that draw phantom load.

Many smart plugs can be paired with popular smart hubs, like Alexa or Google Nest, or controlled through the plug's associated app. Smart plugs are simple to use and a set of four can be purchased for as little as \$25.

## Switch and Save

Save Time and  
Money with  
Auto Pay and  
Paperless Billing



### How it works

Members who enroll in Auto Pay and/or Paperless Billing through SmartHub will receive a monthly bill credit of \$.50 for each program you enroll in. If you enroll in both, you will earn a \$1 monthly bill credit. Members that enroll will also be entered into a yearly drawing for a special prize.

**Get on-the-go convenience  
and pay anytime, anywhere,  
plus added security.**

#### Auto Pay

Your payment will be automatically deducted from your bank account or card on the 20th of each month.

#### Paperless Billing

Members are notified each month by email when their bill is ready. You can view it by clicking on the link in the email or logging into your SmartHub account directly. 1308100

#### How to Enroll

To enroll, log into your SmartHub account:

#### Auto Pay

Go to **Bill & Pay** >

**Auto Pay Program** >

**Enroll** > and add either  
a card or bank account

#### Paperless

Go to **Settings** >

**Paperless Billing** >

Select **Go Paperless**

### Questions?

Please contact the billing department  
at 320-843-4150 with any questions  
or if you need help enrolling.

[www.agralite.coop](http://www.agralite.coop)

## CURRENT AGRALITE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathy Draeger, Clinton  
*District 1*

Jeff Hufford, Morris  
*District 2 - Secretary/Treasurer*

Bennett Zierke, Hancock  
*District 3*

Steve Nelson, Starbuck  
*District 4*

Orvin Gronseth, Murdock  
*District 5 - Vice President*

Andrea Thomson, Benson  
*District 6*

Warren Rau, Appleton  
*District 7 - President*

## MINUTES OF MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 2025

Board Chairman Warren Rau called a meeting of the Board of Directors of Agralite Electric Cooperative to order at 8:40 a.m., June 26, 2025. All members of the Board were present, with Directors Draeger and Zierke joining by Zoom. The agenda, minutes of the last meeting, the monthly disbursements, the payment of capital credits of deceased members, Work Order #582, and May Special Equipment were approved.

Jonathan Messner, Manager of Member Services, reported on activities of his department for the month. He discussed load control for the month. He discussed the Annual Meeting, Youth Tour, and Energy Tour.

Stephanie Wroblewski, Manager of Finance/CFO, reported on activities of her department for the month. She discussed margins for the month of May. She discussed donations from Great River Energy to Operation Round Up, the 990 tax form, and a meeting with Stevens County Emergency Management.

The financials were given by Stephanie with a PowerPoint presentation.

Tom Hoffman, Manager of Engineering & Operations, reported on activities of

## HYDROPOWER WORD SEARCH

You know that it's never safe to mix water and electricity at home, but did you know that large amounts of flowing water can be used to create electricity? This process of generating electricity from the movement of water is called hydropower.



Read the facts below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.

1. **Water** flowing down a river is used to spin large **turbines** that help create hydroelectricity.
2. When the turbines spin, a large **generator** spins, which creates **electricity**.
3. The amount of water used to generate hydropower is controlled through the use of large **dams**.
4. **Hydropower** is a form of renewable energy.



J	R	E	E	R	Y	R	L	L	R	S	W	Z	M	H
N	E	B	G	L	O	G	E	N	E	R	A	T	O	R
V	T	R	C	T	E	P	U	N	N	F	L	U	D	V
R	A	I	M	L	Q	C	I	G	H	X	C	S	A	E
A	W	A	K	E	R	B	T	Y	V	W	D	L	M	P
K	B	Q	J	K	R	D	D	R	M	N	N	H	S	R
Q	Q	V	U	U	R	R	V	N	I	O	Y	O	R	K
N	G	Y	T	P	O	Z	L	Q	S	C	Y	E	R	Q
T	G	E	I	P	Z	S	M	X	X	Y	I	F	E	O
M	K	G	O	R	A	B	N	K	H	K	P	T	H	U
V	N	W	P	Q	L	Y	P	A	D	J	S	Z	Y	O
X	E	A	K	J	A	Z	T	Q	P	O	P	I	B	X
R	B	W	A	B	D	O	K	C	I	Q	C	T	K	O
S	Y	B	B	P	Y	S	D	O	F	D	H	B	R	D
W	X	E	D	W	U	G	N	V	H	D	Q	W	P	S



his department for the month. He discussed line crew projects and outages for the month. He gave an update on the new substations and related projects. He discussed the June 2nd storm north of Morris. He discussed job openings in his department.

Tom gave the safety report.

Jenny Stryhn, General Manager/CEO, reviewed her report to the board. She discussed the Annual Meeting. She discussed recent meetings she attended including the East River Managers Meeting and GRE Managers Meeting. She discussed changes to both Basin Electric and East River Electric's bylaws. She discussed a Federated Rural Electric open board seat.

The East River Certificate of Delegates was discussed. South Central Electric has the 2025 voting delegate.

The NRECA Delegate Certification was discussed and tabled for next month.

A roundtable discussion was held regarding the new headquarters facility and safety, the Agralite auction, and MREA Legislative update.

The July board meeting was set for the 31st. Being no further business came before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.