



Photo: Janelle Skarsten, July Calendar Photo Contest Winner

# Agralite Electric Cooperative NEWSLETTER

July 2022

## Manager's Article by Kory Johnson

This has been a challenging month for our members and the cooperative. Aside from outages and damages to the electrical system, our members experienced devastating damages to farm sites and their homes. As I went around our system, I was saddened to see the extent of damages across the entire area, grain bins toppled, farm equipment damaged, farm shops gone, roofs torn from homes, trees down, and irrigation systems toppled. I would like to express my thanks to our members for your understanding during these outages and patience as we worked to restore power to your farms and homes.

Problems started early on Sunday, May 8th. This typically is a day we gather with family to honor our mothers. Instead, early that morning a wind storm rolled through the southeastern part of the system and took down a number of Great River Energy's 115 kV transmission structures causing substation outages at the Dublin and Swenoda substations. Fortunately, GRE was able to reroute power to the two substations and limit the time these subs and our members were out of power.

May 12th was a different story! A storm rolled out of Nebraska, across South Dakota and seemed to have Agralite right in its sites. That evening around 6:30, the storm hit with winds in some areas approaching 100 mph. The wind caused extensive damages to both the transmission system serving the substations, as well as damage to the distribution system. Great River Energy and Ottertail Power, who provide transmission service to the cooperative, had numerous transmission poles down. The evening of the 12th, Agralite lost power to 16 of our 17 substations. The 115 kV line serving the Hancock, Victor Hanson, Dublin, and Swenoda substations was down in three different sections, the 69 kV line serving Swift Falls, Gilchrist, and Lake Johanna subs was on down along Hwy 9, and the 41 kV line serving Akron, Artichoke, Fairfield, Alberta, and Donnelly was down in several places. In all, GRE had 114 transmission poles broken with numerous other repairs needed before the lines could be safely re-energized. The Clinton substation was the only sub that did not lose power that evening.

With the extensive damages to the transmission, the first step to begin restoration was to patrol the transmission lines to determine where the lines were down and to see which lines could be back fed or isolate sections of line and then re-energize portions of the lines. After patrolling much of the transmission system, Shible, Victor Hanson, Hancock, Swift Falls, Gilchrist, Lake Johanna, Alberta, and Donnelly were brought back online later that evening. The Akron, Moyer, and Artichoke subs were energized late Friday. Kildare, Dublin, and Swenoda were energized Sunday and the repairs to the transmission line feeding the Fairfield was completed on Monday. [Article Continues On Page 2](#)

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**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 Hours:**  
7:00am - 3:30pm



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.

### Energy Saving Tip:



**Did you know the combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers, and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home? 1549800 Take small steps to save energy when using these appliances.**

Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.

*Source: EIA and DOE*



**Call Day or Night  
1.888.884.3887**

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

June Energy Payment  
is due July 20.\*

\*We accept Visa, Discover & Mastercard.

### Manager's Article Continued

Aside from the damages to the transmission lines and poles, Agralite lost nearly 200 poles on the distribution system. Also, there were approximately 175 poles leaning that needed to be straightened before the lines could be safely energized, numerous trees that had taken down lines, and a few grain bins and other debris had caused problems on the distribution lines. 1405600 Like the transmission system, the first task was to determine the location of damages and the extent to the damages across the entire Agralite system. By doing this, line crews would know what poles and assembly units were needed to rebuild the damaged lines.

Agralite began to bring in extra line workers from other cooperatives the next day to assist in the restoration process. I would like to thank the linemen from BENCO Electric Cooperative of Mankato, Traverse Electric Cooperative of Wheaton, Meeker Cooperative Light & Power of Litchfield, and Renville Sibley Cooperative Power of Danube for the valuable assistance they brought. These workers, along with the Agralite employees, worked tirelessly to restore service to our members. As substations were energized the line crews worked to repair damages and replace poles as needed to restore power to our members. Finally on Tuesday, May 17th, the last feeder was energized out of the Fairfield sub. Crews continued to work on individual outages and work with electricians where there were damages to the member's wiring.

Even as Agralite was still working on cleaning up debris and making repairs to scattered damages from the May 12th storm, Memorial Day arrived with another round of storms and tornadoes. Again, Agralite saw outages spread across much of the system. Fortunately, the damages were limited to the distribution system. Agralite did lose 40 distribution poles during the storm. Again, extra crews were called in to assist in the restoration process. Crews from Traverse Electric Cooperative and Highline Construction stepped in to lend a hand.

Again, I would like to express my thanks to the Agralite employees who worked long hard hours to restore power during these storms. Also, thank you to our members for your patience and understanding as you endured lengthy outages.





# Congratulations 2022 Scholarship Recipients



**Leila Pust**  
LQPV High School  
\$2,500 & \$1,000 Basin Scholarship



**Abbigail Athey**  
Morris Area High School  
\$2,500



**Hope Braaten**  
Minnewaska Area High School  
\$1,000



**Rylee Erickson**  
Hancock High School  
\$1,000



**Breanna Schmidgall**  
Morris Area High School  
\$500



**Morgan Schmidt**  
University of South Dakota  
\$500



**Sara Evenson**  
Benson High School  
\$500

## 2022 FARMFEST

**AUGUST 2-4**  
**Redwood Falls, MN**

Cut out and bring this coupon to Farmfest for a chance to win a grand prize.



Visit Agralite Electric Cooperative, along with other Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, at Farmfest 2022 and enter for a chance to win a grand prize!

**FARMFEST 2022 • AUGUST 2 - 4 • REDWOOD FALLS, MN**

Bring this coupon to Booth #2301.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

You must be a member of one of the participating electric cooperatives to win.



## Unclaimed Capital Credits

Your Board of Directors authorized the return of approximately \$1.18 million dollars in capital credits to members who purchased electricity during the 1990s, 1996, 1997 and 2017.

Agralite is trying to return Capital Credits to former members who are no longer at their last address on file with us. 940000 If you know someone who is on this list, please take a moment to let them know or to let us know. Past members listed may claim their capital credit

refund by contacting our office at 320-843-4150. This list can also be found on our website at [www.agralite.coop](http://www.agralite.coop). Capital Credits belong to our members and we hope we can return the credits to their owners!

Unsure what to do with capital credit checks received from us or don't want to hassle with them? Donating those funds to Operation Round Up is always an option, where you can help the community that you live in.

## Unclaimed Capital Credit List

Abner, Gary - Sacramento, CA	Dale, Arne - Benson, MN	Graunke, Wayne - Dawson, MN
Adams, Clifford - Herman, MN	Dan, Arlene - Minneapolis, MN	Green, David - Ortonville, MN
Akre, La Vonda - Starbuck, MN	Danielson, Steven - Ortonville, MN	Grimlie, Blaine - Clear Lake, SD
Alama, Ida - Cyrus, MN	De Neui, Marlton - Graceville, MN	Gruis, Kyle - Anchorage, AK
Amdahl, Curtis - Hutchinson, MN	De Young, Jay - Corning, IA	Haas, John - North Platte, NE
Amunrud, Troy - Redwood Falls, MN	Degier, Jon - Hancock, MN	Hagen, Richard - Donnelly, MN
Anderson, Kenton - New London, MN	Dobmeier, David - Anoka, MN	Hagerud, Edna - Danvers, MN
Anderson, Paul - New London, MN	Doll, Donna - Benson, MN	Hahn, Eugene - Big Lake, MN
Anklam, Don - Springfield, MN	Doney, Floyd - Ortonville, MN	Harpel, Hugo - Blooming Prairie, MN
Arends, Wilhelmina - Maynard, MN	Downes, Dorothy - Hammond, MN	Harter, Steven - Le Roy, MN
Arnold, Steven - Chokio, MN	Drown, Philip - Little Falls, MN	Hartzell, Richard - Benson, MN
Bailey, Sally - Benson, MN	Eby, Daniel - Willmar, MN	Hasz, Dennis - Ellendale, ND
Bakken, Jennieva - Appleton, MN	Eckardt, Ardith - Odessa, MN	Hauer, Connie - Starbuck, MN
Bane, Gordy - Champlin, MN	Ehlen, Jeffrey - Chokio, MN	Haugen, Edwin - Benson, MN
Banken, Paul - Monticello, MN	Eliason, Harris - Starbuck, MN	Haugland, Joyce - Alberta, MN
Barsness, Dale - Paynesville, MN	Eliason, Harry - St. Paul, MN	Heaney, Timothy - Chokio, MN
Bean, Terry - La Crosse, WI	Ellefson, Nancy - North Branch, MN	Hecker-Hofstedt, Maxine - Golden Valley, MN
Beck, G A - Clinton, MN	Ellingson, Marlys - Granite Falls, MN	Heilig, L. L. - Windom, MN
Benham, Eddie - Minnetonka, MN	Ellis, Herbert - Brooten, MN	Heinsius, Jill - Melrose, MN
Beyer, Douglas - Appleton, MN	Ellis, Mike - Alberta, MN	Helberg, Daniel - Cyrus, MN
Blomgren, Angeline - Beaver Creek, MN	Emmons, Michael - Glenwood, MN	Hempeck, Stashenko - Alberta, MN
Bodin, John - Murdock, MN	Erck, Oscar - White Bear Lake, MN	Hendrickson, David - Starbuck, MN
Boelke, Thomas - Starbuck, MN	Erdman, Rickie - Starbuck, MN	Henkelman, Vernon - Appleton, MN
Boettcher, Donald - Albertville, MN	Erdman-Fettig, Lynette - Plymouth, MN	Henriksen, Clifford - Starbuck, MN
Bonnema, Roger - Willmar, MN	Erickson, Duane - Minneapolis, MN	Hinrichs, John - Granite Falls, MN
Boraas, Brad - Montevideo, MN	Erickson, Jon - Dawson, MN	Holzhiemer, Robert - Montevideo, MN
Braddock, Dale - Edina, MN	Erickson, Kathleen - Morris, MN	Hoppe, Lucille - Sheldon, IA
Brandvold, Tom - Glenwood, MN	Eystad, Steve - Morris, MN	Ingebretson, David - Glenwood, MN
Brateng, Jason - Kerkhoven, MN	Fehr, Leroy - Hancock, MN	Jacobsen, Roy - Highlands Ranch, CO
Brown, Jay - St. Paul, MN	Fitzgerald, Richard - Hancock, MN	Jacobson, Michael - Brooten, MN
Brown, Jim - Chokio, MN	Flanders, Todd - Chaska, MN	Jaeger, Andy - Benson, MN
Burmeister, Lloyd - Apple Valley, MN	Fletcher, Gerald - Bemidji, MN	Janecek, Sarah - Minneapolis, MN
Burns, Bradley - Benson, MN	Franek, Stephanie - Morris, MN	Jeffery, Justin - Benson, MN
Busch, Betty - Sierra Vista, AZ	Freeman, J W - Mesa, AZ	Jenniges, Doris - Glenwood, MN
Buss, Elizabeth - Morris, MN	Friederichs, Tom - Morris, MN	Johnson, Brian - Andover, MN
Butcher, Mark - Morris, MN	Gaidi, Mary - Rosemount, MN	Johnson, Cecil - Clinton, MN
Carper, Pamela - Putman, IL	Gausmann, Susan - Alberta, MN	Johnson, Donald - Brooten, MN
Christensen, Norman - Willmar, MN	Gibbs, Kenten - Benson, MN	Johnson, Edwin - Benson, MN
Cook, Linda - Morris, MN	Gillespie, Arthur - Willmar, MN	Johnson, Warner - Ortonville, MN
Courneya, Dennis - Frazee, MN	Goris, R. D. - Spicer, MN	Johnston, Jason - Milbank, SD



Jorgenson, Arnold - Edina, MN	Munsterman, Albert - Montevideo, MN	Schrader, Carolyn - Pinole, CA
Kaley, WM - Chokio, MN	Nelson, Mary - Clinton, MN	Schrick, Rob - Willmar, MN
Karsky, Adrian - Blaine, MN	Nemmers, Mike - Ankeny, IA	Searle, Rodney - Alberta, MN
Keizer, Charles - Randolph, NE	Neuhaus, Gene - Benson, MN	Septon, Evertte - Anoka, MN
Keller, Diane - Correll, MN	Nissen, Glen - Benson, MN	Severance, Lyle - Miles City, MT
Kennard, Kenneth - Benson, MN	O'Brien, Harry - Benson, MN	Shaw, Luella - Marshall, MN
Kjenstad, Doris - Morris, MN	Oehler, Francis - Chokio, MN	Sherod, Dennis - Ortonville, MN
Klages, Lillian - Correll, MN	Offerdahl, Anna - Benson, MN	Sherod, Susan - Morris, MN
Kluver, Troy - St. James, MN	Olson, Duwayne - Murdock, MN	Solis, Leon - Grulla, TX
Knutson, Jim - Brooten, MN	Olson, Elmer - Benson, MN	Spaulding, Jeffrey - Graceville, MN
Koerlin, Arlene - St. Paul, MN	Olson, Gary - Longmont, CO	Stanley, Kristine - Minneapolis, MN
Kohler, Fred - Pine River, MN	Olson, Mark - Glenwood, MN	Stewart, Milford - Starbuck, MN
Kondert, Adolph - Sioux Falls, SD	Olson, Mark Sr - Willmar, MN	Stieren, Mike - Olivia, MN
Kontz, Tom - Beardsley, MN	Olson, Richard - Graceville, MN	Swanson, Shawn - Crystal, MN
Koubsky, Paula - Sauk Centre, MN	Olson, Sylvia - Glenwood, MN	Swenson, Alf. - Willmar, MN
Krenz, Todd - Starbuck, MN	Ostland, Ron - Clinton, MN	Thomson, Linda - Alexandria, MN
Krotz, Dana - Benson, MN	Ostronic, Lawrence - Bennington, NE	Tiesing, Lisa - Correll MN
Kuperus, Robert - Belgrade, MN	Oswood, Thelma - Milbank, SD	Tolifson, Gerald - Glenwood, MN
Larson, Clara - Benson, MN	Paulsen, Mary - Azusa, CA	Tucker, Ronald - Willmar, MN
Larson, Marie - Watertown, SD	Paulson, Daniel - Crookston, MN	Ulrich, Jeff - Hancock, MN
Lee, Harry - Brooten, MN	Pauly, Christopher - Bellingham, MN	Uphoff, Jim - St. Joseph, MN
Lemme, Gary - Mason, MI	Pekron, James - Ortonville, MN	Urban, Stephen - Madison Lake, MN
Leonard, Michelle - Glenwood, MN	Peltier, Mike - Starbuck, MN	Urseth, WM - New Prague, MN
Levine, M E - Minneapolis, MN	Peters, Gerald - Ortonville, MN	Vait, Lester - Rice, MN
Lindberg, Florence - Fairbault, MN	Peterson, Dawn - Glenwood, MN	Voigt, Arlo - Grove City, MN
Litton, Chad - Morris, MN	Peterson, Kenneth - Morris, MN	Walter, Luella - Apache Junction, AZ
Long Tom Hunting Camp - Bellingham, MN	Peterson, Vincent - Chappell, NE	Wartner, Hubert - New Germany, MN
Long Tom Partnership - New Prague, MN	Pherson, Helen - Ortonville, MN	Watson, Charles - Ranier, MN
Loy, Raymond - St. Paul, MN	Pitra, Quentin - Willmar, MN	Weatherly, Michael - Morris, MN
Lubenow, James - Graceville, MN	Powers, Victor - Maple Plain, MN	Webster, R. H. - Jackson, MN
Lukason, Robert - St. Cloud, MN	Quale, Richard - Minneapolis, MN	Wickstrom, Carrie - Rockford, IL
Lundquist, James - Benson, MN	Quigley, Michael - Benson, MN	Williams, Paul - Minneapolis, MN
Manthi, Brian - Starbuck, MN	Raasch, Lowell - Cyrus, MN	Williams, Rick - Hancock, MN
Martelle, Charles - Pierre, SD	Rachie, Phillip - Granite Falls, MN	Wilson, Amanda - Cloquet, MN
Mathies, Jim - Ghent, MN	Raths, Donald - Cyrus, MN	Witte, Ray - Sioux Falls, SD
Matthies, Paul - Holloway, MN	Rawls, Vicki - Milton, PA	Yordy, Roger Sr - Odessa, MN
McCollar, Wallace - Morris, MN	Reardon, Lyle - Morris, MN	Zeltwanger, William Jr - Round Top, TX
McNally, Tom - Morris, MN	Reese, Scott - Brooten, MN	Zenk, Lori - Ortonville, MN
Megggers, William - Appleton, MN	Reining, David - Glenwood, MN	Zinda, Bill - Chokio, MN
Metropolitan Federal Bank - St. Paul, MN	Riley, Christopher - Morris, MN	Zych, Stanley - Graceville, MN
Miller, Eldor - Donnelly, MN	Ring, Leonard - Morris, MN	
Millerbernd, Mike - Bellingham, MN	Ringsaker, Dave - Rosholt, SD	
Mlsna, Bruce - Ortonville, MN	Rinkenberger, Howard - Chokio, MN	
Mohler, Carl - Benson, MN	Riverbluff, Trust - Minnetonka, MN	
Molden, Warren - Benson, MN	Rockwell, Doris - Chanhassen, MN	
Moline, Charles - Paynesville, MN	Rohman, Emma - Clinton, MN	
Moore, Victor - Redwood Falls, MN	Rothwell, Kim - Pennock, MN	
Mortenson, Mary - Benson, MN	Rundquist, Orville - Hancock, MN	
Mount, Sheldon - Edgewater, MD	Sanderson, Mike - Clontarf, MN	

## 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 - President*

Andrea Thomson, Benson

*District 6*

Warren Rau, Appleton

*District 7 - Vice President*

## MINUTES OF MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS May 2022

Board Chairman Orvin Gronseth called a meeting of the Board of Directors of Agralite Electric Cooperative to order at 8:30 a.m., May 26, 2022. All members of the Board were present except Director Thomson who joined by Zoom. The agenda, minutes of the last meeting, the monthly disbursements, and payment of capital credits of deceased members were approved.

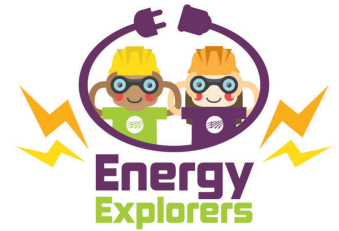
Jonathan Messner, Manager of Member Services, reported on activities of his department for the month. He discussed load management and billing peaks. He discussed 4H Club donations, electric school buses, and Agralite's community solar program. He reported on the storm that hit May 12th and how Facebook was a valuable tool for keeping members informed. He brought forth a request letter from the Hancock Building Project asking for a donation for the building project for The Nest Child Care Center and Community Center and the Board approved a donation of \$7,500 for the project and will be seeking matching funds through CoBank Sharing Success program. The Board also approved a donation of \$2,500 to Discovery Kids Daycare Center in Benson and will be applying for matching funds as well.

Jenny Stryhn, Manager of Finance, discussed Agralite's margins for the month of April. She discussed the May 12th storm and damage estimate requests for possible state and federal reimbursement. She discussed capital credit checks that were mailed out the first week of May. 1651800 She discussed a paperless billing promotion

## COOPERATIVE FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

As a member of an electric cooperative (also known as a co-op), you're part of something special! Read the facts about co-ops below and use the word bank to fill in the blanks.

**Check your work in the answer key.**



### Word Bank:

Electric  
Principles  
Members  
Communities  
Co-ops

1. Co-ops don't have customers. Instead, they have \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Co-ops are local organizations and businesses, so they understand the local \_\_\_\_\_ they serve.
3. All co-ops are guided by the same set of cooperative \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ are led by the members they serve.
5. You're a member of an \_\_\_\_\_ co-op, but there are also housing, grocery and other types of co-ops.

Answer Key: 1) members 2) communities 3) principles 4) co-ops 5) electric

that will go out with June billing statements.

Jenny brought forth Work Order #525 and Special Equipment April 2022 and the Board approved them.

The financials were given by Jenny with a PowerPoint presentation.

Tom Hoffman, Manager of Engineering & Operations, reported on activities of his department for the month. He discussed the May 12th storm and showed pictures of the restoration progress timeline. Approximately 181 poles were lost and another 180 leaning poles. Great River Energy lost approximately 115 poles.

Tom gave the safety report.

Kory Johnson, General Manager, reviewed his report to the board. He discussed the May 12th storm, GRE PCA, potential summer rolling blackouts, and the NRECA Legislative Conference he attended. Kory discussed East River Transmission Credit options and it was tabled until the June Board Meeting.

The Board accepted the two Board Petition for Nominations that were received.

The June board meeting was set for the 30th. Being no further business came before the Board, the meeting was adjourned