



Photo: Judy Hoberg, November Calendar Photo Contest Winner

Agralite Electric Cooperative NEWSLETTER

November 2022

Jennifer Stryhn Appointed Next CEO and General Manager of Agralite Electric Cooperative

Jennifer will succeed Kory Johnson upon his retirement in December. Stryhn has served as the Manager of Finance for the cooperative since 2014 and was recently promoted to the position of Assistant Manager.

Stryhn, holds an undergraduate degree in Business Administration - Finance from the University of Wisconsin- River Falls. Continuing her education, she then received her Master of Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Stryhn came to Agralite Electric with previous cooperative utilities experience. Stryhn currently resides in the area with her husband and two children.

"Jennifer is the right leader for Agralite Electric Cooperative." said Orvin Gronseth, Board President. "Jennifer has proven herself as a leader as the Manager of Finance and more recently as Assistant Manager. She has shown business vision and the ability to bring people together. We believe her strong leadership and thoughtful approach are the qualities needed to lead the cooperative into the future.

"I am grateful to the Board of Directors for giving me this opportunity. I am excited to lead Agralite Electric in its next chapter during a time of change across our landscape, embracing the cooperative difference to serve our membership and our communities with safe, reliable and affordable electricity," said Stryhn.

Stryhn succeeds retired General Manager Kory Johnson; the Agralite Board of Directors thanks Johnson for his commitment to the member-owners of the cooperative and his leadership over the past 14 years.



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innovative, sustainable
energy solutions

FOR OVER

75 YEARS

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

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(320) 843-4150
1-800-950-8375
www.agralite.coop

 Like us on Facebook



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 Karla Kurkosky on finding her account number in our September issue.

Energy Saving Tip:

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill?

One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. 1317100 If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days.

If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to boost efficiency.

Source: Energy.gov



Call Day or Night
1.888.884.3887

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

October Energy Payment
is due November 20.*

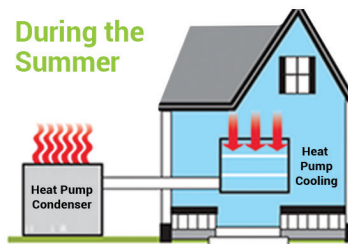
*We accept Visa, Discover & Mastercard.

Air-Source Heat Pumps

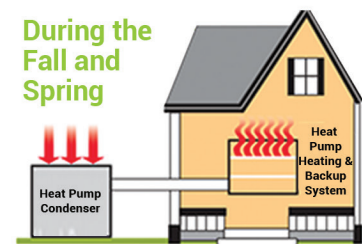
An air-source heat pump can provide efficient heating and cooling for your home. 1401000 When properly installed, an air-source heat pump can deliver one-and-a-half to three times more heat energy to a home than the electrical energy it consumes. This is possible because a heat pump moves heat rather than converting it from a fuel like combustion heating systems do.

Air-source heat pumps have been used for many years in nearly all parts of the United States, but until recently they have not been used in areas that experienced extended periods of subfreezing temperatures. However, in recent years, air-source heat pump technology has advanced so that it now offers a legitimate space heating alternative in colder regions.

How Air-Source Heat Pumps Work



A heat pump pulls heat from inside your home and moves it outside to provide air conditioning.



A heat pump pulls heat from outside and moves it into your home. You will need a backup heat source when temperatures are below 30 degrees F, typically mid-December through mid-February.

How They Work

A heat pump's refrigeration system consists of a compressor and two coils made of copper tubing (one indoors and one outside), which are surrounded by aluminum fins to aid heat transfer. In heating mode, liquid refrigerant in the outside coils extracts heat from the air and evaporates into a gas. The indoor coils release heat from the refrigerant as it condenses back into a liquid. A reversing valve, near the compressor, can change the direction of the refrigerant flow for cooling as well as for defrosting the outdoor coils in winter.

The efficiency and performance of today's air-source heat pumps is a result of technical advances such as the following:

- Thermostatic expansion valves for more precise control of the refrigerant flow to the indoor coil
- Variable speed blowers, which are more efficient and can compensate for some of the adverse effects of restricted ducts, dirty filters, and dirty coils
- Improved coil design
- Improved electric motor and two-speed compressor designs
- Copper tubing, grooved inside to increase surface area

Selecting a Heat Pump

Every residential heat pump sold in this country has an EnergyGuide label, which displays the heat pump's heating and cooling efficiency performance rating, comparing it to other available makes and models.

Air-Source Heat Pumps *Continued*

Heating efficiency for air-source electric heat pumps is indicated by the heating season performance factor (HSPF), which is the total space heating required during the heating season, expressed in Btu, divided by the total electrical energy consumed by the heat pump system during the same season, expressed in watt-hours.

Cooling efficiency is indicated by the seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER), which is the total heat removed from the conditioned space during the annual cooling season, expressed in Btu, divided by the total electrical energy consumed by the heat pump during the same season, expressed in watt-hours.

The HSPF rates both the efficiency of the compressor and the electric-resistance elements.

The SEER rates a heat pump's cooling efficiency. In general, the higher the SEER, the higher the cost. However, the energy savings can return the higher initial investment several times during the heat pump's life. A new central heat pump replacing a vintage unit will use much less energy, cutting air-conditioning costs substantially.

To choose an air-source electric heat pump, look for the ENERGY STAR® label. In warmer climates, SEER is more important than HSPF. In colder climates, focus on getting the highest HSPF feasible.

These are some other factors to consider when choosing and installing air-source heat pumps:

- Select a heat pump with a demand-defrost control. This will minimize the defrost cycles, thereby reducing supplementary and heat pump energy use. 1073801
- Fans and compressors make noise. Locate the outdoor unit away from windows and adjacent buildings, and select a heat pump with an outdoor sound rating of 7.6 bels or lower. You can also reduce this noise by mounting the unit on a noise-absorbing base.
- The location of the outdoor unit may affect its efficiency. Outdoor units should be protected from high winds, which can cause defrosting problems. You can strategically place a bush or a fence upwind of the coils to block the unit from high winds.



Dual Fuel Members: Please Check Your Back-Up System

If you have a Dual Fuel Heating System, now is the time to be sure your back-up heating system is prepared and that you have adequate fuel supply.

- Dual Fuel Heating Systems are usually controlled during periods of high demand

(such as frigid winter mornings and evenings), but other factors such as high market cost can lead to load control as well.

- There can be up to 400 hours of control during the heating season. However, most winters the control has averaged less than 200 hours.
- Control Events typically occur in the morning and evening hours in the winter for approximately 4 hours at a time.
- Participants should expect less than 40 control days this winter.

4 Steps to Food Safety



Food Poisoning

Food poisoning, also called *foodborne illness*, is caused by eating foods that are contaminated. When food is contaminated, it means that it is infected with a toxic organism such as a bacteria, fungus, parasite or virus. There are more than 250 infectious organisms an individual may swallow that will cause food poisoning. When an individual consumes something toxic, their body reacts to get rid of the toxins. When this happens, they experience the uncomfortable symptoms of food poisoning which are the body's way of returning to good health.

Symptoms of food poisoning can range from mild to very serious. It may take hours or even days to develop symptoms after swallowing contaminated food or drink. Common symptoms of food poisoning include; upset stomach, stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and fever.

Most people experience mild illness that can last from a few hours to several days. Some individuals may need to be hospitalized and, in rare cases, the individual may experience long-term health problems. Serious cases can result in death. Some people are more likely to get sick from food poisoning and have a more serious illness.

An individual should see their healthcare provider if they are experiencing severe symptoms including; bloody diarrhea, high fever (over 102°F), frequent vomiting, signs of dehydration, or diarrhea that lasts more than three days.

Sources: <https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/symptoms.html>, <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/food-poisoning/symptoms-causes/syc-20356230>

Preparing For Winter Storm Season?



DON'T FORGET TO READY YOUR CAR



- ❑ Snowbrush
- ❑ Shovel
- ❑ Windshield washer fluid
- ❑ Cat litter for traction



- ❑ Warm clothing
- ❑ Blankets
- ❑ Drinking water
- ❑ Nonperishable foods



- ❑ Properly inflated spare tire
- ❑ Wheel wrench & tripod jack
- ❑ Jumper cables
- ❑ Fire extinguisher



- ❑ Reflective triangles
- ❑ Reflective vest
- ❑ Brightly colored cloth (to tie on side mirror)



- ❑ First-aid kit
- ❑ Flashlight and batteries
- ❑ Compass
- ❑ Car charger for cell phone

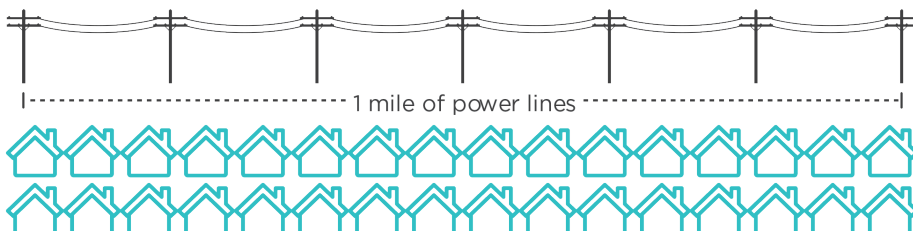


GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Electric co-ops maintain more miles of power lines per consumer than other electric utilities. Even though we power fewer consumers on our lines compared to other utilities, we'll always go the extra mile for you, the consumer-members we proudly serve.

Agralite Electric Cooperative

Serve 2.18 consumer-members per mile of line



OTHER ELECTRIC UTILITIES

Serve 32 consumers per mile of line

COLD WEATHER RULE & ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NOTICE

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between October 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL of the following statements apply:

- Your household income is at or below 60% of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by Agralite Electric Cooperative or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from Agralite Electric Cooperative.

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not completely stop winter disconnects

Before disconnecting electric service to residential members between October 1 and April 30, Agralite Electric Cooperative must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

Energy Assistance Program

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 60% of the state median income (\$67,764 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2022.

To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance.
- Agralite Electric Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact our billing department to set up a payment plan.

Understanding Your Electric Bill

Every billing cycle, your meters are read via Agralite's automatic meter reading system and the usage data is entered into our billing system. Your bill reflects your use for the previous billing cycle (the previous month). 638600 For example, the bill you receive in November is for energy that you used in October. All bills are due by the 20th of every month. Payments received after the 20th will be assessed a penalty charge.

Agralite Electric Cooperative offers several ways to pay your bill:

1. Stop by our main office. Hours are 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.
2. Place your bill in the drop box outside. It is open 24 hours.
3. Call our automated phone service at 1-855-386-9925.
4. Go online and use Smart Hub® at www.agralite.coop.
5. Sign up for Agralite's Automatic Payment Plan.

Remember, if you ever notice that one of your meters isn't reporting any usage, please let us know right away so we can make sure we address or correct any meters or usage processing!

If you have questions about how your bill works or about charges on your bill, please call us today at: 1-320-843-4150 or 1-800-950-8375.

Agralite Electric Cooperative
320 East Highway 12
PO Box 228
Benson, MN 56215
(320) 843-4150 or (800) 950-8375
(320) 843-3738 Fax
www.agralite.coop

1 Account Number
2 Statement Date

3 BILLING SUMMARY
Balance From Last Billing:
Payments
Previous Balance
4 Total Current Charges Due
Total Amount Due

Page 1 of 1

5 Map Loc: **6** Phone: **7** Serv Add:

Meter	Pres kWh Rdg	Prev kWh Rdg	Usage	Mult
9	08/30/2012 25858	07/31/2012 25141	528	1
	08/31/2012 31734	07/31/2012 31545	189	1

8 KWH Charge (528 kWh @ 0.1102 per kWh)
KWH Charge (189 kWh @ 0.0732 per kWh)
Fixed Charge
State Sales Tax
Submeter Charge
Total Due This Location

10 Monthly Usage

11 Off Peak Savings **12**

13 Messages

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT

14 Account #: Total Amount Due: Due Date:

To help you understand how to read our bill, please see the example graphic and review the descriptions below:

- 1** This is your account number that is assigned to you when you become an Agralite Member Owner. Keep it handy for when you call the office.
- 2** The statement date is the date on which the bill was printed. Usage and billing information is for the previous billing cycle.
- 3** This is your billing summarized in this part of the statement.
- 4** This is the total amount due on the 20th of every month.
- 5** We show your map location number for ease in looking up your account.
- 6** We put your phone number here as another account identifier and to help us identify you.
- 7** The service address is the physical address of this account. Please call to update it if it is not correct.
- 8** Each of your main and sub-meters are listed in this area. You will also see the meter rate and usage here.
- 9** Meter information including reading dates, the reading and usage information are listed here. If you ever notice you have no usage on one of your meters, please call us right away to confirm your billing is correct.
- 10** This section is referred to as the breakdown of your bill, it includes both items in 8 and 9. In Section 9, the second reading is included, if applicable. Again, it is good to verify that you have appropriate usage on these meters.
- 11** A 13-month graph lets you compare this cycle's usage to other months. This graph is the aggregate of all your energy usage.
- 12** The total amount you saved by participating in EnergyWise programs is shown here. These are the savings you have realized while participating in load management programs.
- 13** Messages such as events coming up or deadlines are listed here.
- 14** The due date is the 20th of every month.

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 September 2022

Board Chairman Orvin Gronseth called a meeting of the Board of Directors of Agralite Electric Cooperative to order at 9:30 a.m., September 29, 2022. All members of the Board were present except Director Nelson who joined by Zoom.

There was a motion and second for the board to go into executive session. The board returned to regular session. The agenda, minutes of the last meeting, the monthly disbursements, and payment of capital credits of deceased members were approved.

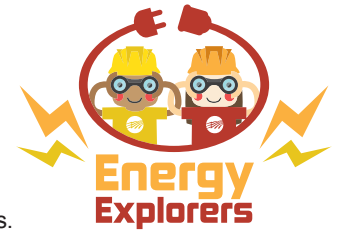
Jonathan Messner, Manager of Member Services, reported on activities of his department for the month. He discussed load management and DER applications. He discussed the Brigg's generator program. He reported on ALM project updates.

Jenny Stryhn, Manager of Finance, discussed Agralite's margins for the month of August. She discussed power costs for the month and sales. She discussed FEMA briefings, Insurance renewals and the Cold Weather Rule.

Jenny brought forth Work Order #529 and Special Equipment August 2022 and the Board approved them.

The financials were given by Jenny with a PowerPoint presentation.

FALL SAFETY WORD SEARCH



Fall is finally here! The leaves are changing, the weather is cooler and the holidays are just around the corner. But Fall also brings greater risks of home fires and electrical hazards.

Read the safety tips below, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.

Adults should always stay in the **kitchen** while food is **cooking**.

Smoke alarms should be tested monthly to ensure they're working properly.

Batteries should be replaced every year or right away if the alarm starts to chirp.

Candles should never be left burning when someone isn't in the room.

Keep flammable items away from the **stove**, **toaster** and other cooking **appliances**.

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

Tom Hoffman, Manager of Engineering & Operations, reported on activities of his department for the month. He discussed line crew projects. He discussed RESAP and upcoming FEMA meetings.

Tom gave the safety report.

Kory Johnson, General Manager, reviewed his report to the board. He discussed the region meetings he attended, and Basin and GRE updates.

Director Gronseth will be the Voting Delegate at the Basin Annual meeting.

Director Zierke will be the Voting Delegate at the Midwest Annual Meeting.

The October board meeting was set for the 27th.

Being no further business came before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.