



Photo: Kelsey Schlieman, November Calendar Photo Contest Winner

NEWSLETTER

November 2025

Manager's Article by Jenny Stryhn, General Manager

On behalf of the cooperative, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us at our recent Open House event. Your presence, questions, and conversations made it a truly engaging and successful day. These gatherings remind us of the strong sense of community we share and the importance of staying connected with those we serve. Whether you came for the facility tour, to speak with staff, or just to enjoy the lunch, we were grateful for the opportunity to visit with you. As your locally-owned electric cooperative, we are committed to transparency and accountability. Events like the Open House give us the chance to provide updates and answer questions. Your feedback is always welcome and helps guide our decisions moving forward.

A Note On Rising Power Supply Costs

As many of you know, the cost of providing electricity is increasing. Like other cooperatives and utilities across the country, we are seeing higher prices for the wholesale power we purchase. Factors contributing to these increases include fuel supply constraints, inflation, regulatory changes, and increased demand.

We are working hard to manage these costs on your behalf. 746901 This includes long-term planning, advocating for reliable and affordable energy policy, and investing in system efficiencies. While price adjustments may be necessary, please know that we remain focused on keeping your rates as stable and fair as possible.

Wishing You A Safe Harvest And A Happy Thanksgiving

As the days grow shorter and the fields begin to clear, we know many of our members are in the thick of or wrapping up harvest season. We wish all of our farmers a safe and productive harvest. Please remember to keep equipment clear of power lines and always use caution when working near electrical infrastructure.

Looking ahead, we wish you and your loved ones a warm and joyful Thanksgiving. We're truly thankful for the opportunity to serve our members and support the communities we call home.



THE AGRALITE OFFICE IS **NOW OPEN**



EMPOWERING
communities

with innovative
and sustainable
energy solutions

FOR OVER
85
YEARS

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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

 Like us on Facebook



Office Hours:

8:00AM – 4:30PM

Closed Nov. 11 - Veterans Day

Closed Nov. 27 & 28 - Thanksgiving



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 Thomas Petrak and Thomas Schmidgall for finding their account numbers in the September newsletter.

Energy Saving Tip:

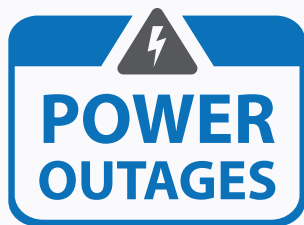


With the holiday season approaching, more time is spent in the kitchen.

Consider these ways to save energy in the heart of your home.

When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy efficient appliances, such as toaster ovens, slow cookers, and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle.

Source: [energy.gov](#)



Call Day or Night
1.888.884.3887

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

November Energy Payment is due December 20*.

*We accept Visa, Discover, and Mastercard.

Stay Safe On Winter Roads

Winter months bring snow, ice and windy conditions, which create additional hazards for drivers.

Should an accident occur, it is important to be prepared. Automobile crashes always present danger, but when electricity is involved, decisions made in the moments after the accident are especially crucial.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Highway Administration, 24 percent of weather-related vehicle crashes occur on snowy or icy pavement. Here are tips to help drivers stay safe in your cars and on the roads this winter.

Before The Winter Storm

Plan ahead for cold temps, snow, and ice with seasonal maintenance on your car. Ensure:

- Batteries are charged.
- Spare tire is inflated.
- Windshield wipers work.
- Headlights, brake lights and turn signals work.
- Tires have sufficient tread.
- Jumper cables are in good condition.
- A winterized car emergency kit is on board.
- Gas tank is at least half full.

Create A Car Emergency Kit

Be cautious driving, and keep an emergency kit in your vehicle, which should include:

- Blankets
- Portable shovel
- Flares
- Non-perishable snacks
- Warm hat
- Sand or kitty litter for traction
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Ice scraper
- Phone charger
- Bottled water
- First aid kit

If you are stranded in your car after an accident, watch for signs of frostbite or hypothermia. Observe the following precautions:

- Don't stay in one position for too long.
- Don't overexert yourself. Avoid strain on your heart.
- Watch for signs such as a change in skin color, numbness, shivering, slurred speech, loss of coordination or confusion.
- Stay awake.

Article continues on page 3



We're Grateful for Your Membership.

Our offices will be closed
Thursday, November 27,
and Friday, November 28,
in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.
We are incredibly grateful for your membership as our team spends this special time with loved ones.

Mark your calendars!

..... JOIN US FOR



Cider & Cookies

December 18 & 19

2025 Community Events

Touch-A-Truck Event
Morris, MN

Fire Prevention Week
Hancock, MN

Above: Teaching 5th and 6th graders at Hancock Public Schools about the importance of both fire and electrical safety during Fire Prevention Week.

Prairie Harvest Fest
Morris, MN
(pictured right)

Stay Safe On Winter Roads *Continued*

Downed Power Lines

- Due to the potential for a winter storm to bring down power lines, individuals should only venture outside if necessary.
- Slow down when driving in icy conditions, and always keep your eyes out for hazardous conditions or downed power lines. Also, watch for debris near down poles and lines, as it may be energized as well.
- If you see a car in an accident with a power pole, your first instinct may be to rush toward the vehicle to offer help.
- Always remember to keep your distance from the vehicle and all electrical equipment that has been damaged. Instruct those in the car to stay inside until the power has been shut off.
- If you must exit the vehicle because it is on fire, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Keeping your feet together, shuffle or “bunny hop” to safety. Doing this will ensure that you will not have different strengths of electric current running from one foot to another.
- Keep in mind that a downed line does not need to be sparking to be energized. It is best to assume that all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous.
- Never drive over a downed line because that could pull down a pole or other equipment, causing additional hazards.
- If you see a downed line, do not get out of your car. The safest place is inside your vehicle. Contact 911 to notify the utility immediately.

For utility crews, repairing damaged power lines is especially dangerous during storm conditions. The increased hazards mean that extra time and attention must be dedicated to ensure power is safely restored. Have patience while lineworkers restore power in these adverse conditions, and remember to observe safety precautions and always be prepared for driving in dangerous winter conditions.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Home Lighting 101

Lighting is something most of us don't think much about—until it's wrong. Maybe the living room feels too dim for reading, or the kitchen lights cast an odd yellow glow. We often grab whatever bulb or fixture looks good without considering how it will actually perform in the space. But with a little planning, you can make your home brighter, cozier and more energy efficient.

Watts vs. Lumens

When you're shopping for light bulbs, it's easy to focus on watts, but watts only measure how much energy a bulb uses. When it comes to brightness, what really matters is the lumen count. Lumens measure the actual light output. For example, an 800-lumen bulb gives off about the same amount of light as an old-fashioned 60-watt incandescent bulb. (You've likely replaced all incandescent bulbs with long-lasting, energy efficient LEDs, but if not—it's time to make the switch!) A helpful rule of thumb: higher lumens mean brighter light, while lower watts mean less energy consumed. Remember to check wattage ratings for fixtures and only install bulbs that meet the fixture's wattage safety requirements.

Color Temperature and Consistency

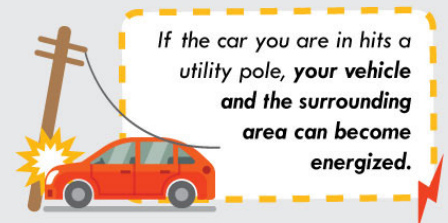
Light bulbs also vary in color temperature, which ranges from warm yellow to cool white or even bluish tones. This detail often gets overlooked—until you replace one bulb and notice the new light doesn't quite match the others.

Article continues on page 4



KNOW WHAT TO DO

if in an Auto Accident with Power Lines



Even if you do not touch lines or equipment, you can still be killed or seriously injured.



1. Do NOT leave the car, and warn others to stay away.

2. Call 911 to have the utility notified.



3. Wait until a utility professional has told you it is safe.



The **only** reason to exit the vehicle is **if it's on fire.**

If the car is on fire, jump clear of the vehicle: **with feet together, and without touching the car and the ground at the same time.**



Continue to **hop away** with your **feet together** as far as you can.



Learn more at SafeElectricity.org

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Scammers will try anything to pressure customers into providing their personal information. If you are ever asked to pay your utility bill through a third party transaction app, such as Cash App or Venmo, it's a scam. Remember, utilities will never request a payment through a third-party app. Always use authorized payment methods when paying your utility bills.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams



Congratulations Jared Knutson



Jared completed his apprenticeship and earned his Journeyman Lineworker Certificate!

Home Lighting 101 *Continued*

If mismatched tones drive you crazy, consider buying and installing bulbs of the same brand and wattage in a room at the same time. That way, the look stays consistent, and you won't be stuck hunting for a perfect match later.

Dimmers And Switches

Installing dimmers instead of standard on/off switches can be a game changer. Dimmers give you more control over brightness, help save energy, and create a more comfortable atmosphere. Not all bulbs are dimmable, so double check labels before buying. While you're thinking about switches, consider whether you have enough of them—and in the right places. 1525900 A light that only turns off from one end of a hallway can be annoying. For new installations or upgrades, it's best to hire a licensed electrician to ensure everything is wired safely and efficiently.

Fixtures: Form Meets Function

Bulbs are only part of the equation—fixtures matter too. Each type serves a purpose. Ambient lighting, like sconces or glass-covered ceiling fixtures, provides general illumination. Task lighting, like pendants, desk lamps or track lighting, focuses light where you need it most. When choosing a fixture, think beyond looks. Ask yourself: does this light provide the right amount of brightness for the space? A beautiful chandelier might look perfect over the dining table but leave the rest of the room too dim. Alternatively, an oversized fixture could flood the room with more light than you need, wasting both energy and money.

Smart Lighting: Energy Efficiency Meets Convenience

Smart lighting adds another layer of control for illuminating your home. But the real magic is convenience. With smart bulbs, you can adjust brightness, set schedules or even change colors—all from your phone or a voice assistant like Alexa or Google Assistant. Want to dim the lights automatically for movie night or turn them on before you get home? Smart bulbs make it easy. Smart lighting also lets you personalize your space. You can go classic with warm white tones or experiment with colors to set the mood—anything from a soft glow for winding down to vibrant hues for a party. Remember, smart bulbs still rely on power from your wall switch and need to stay in the “on” position for remote controls to work. If you prefer using a physical switch, consider pairing smart bulbs with a smart light switch. Many smart switches also come with motion detectors, adding efficiency and convenience. Good lighting can make your home look better—and feel better, too. With a little planning, you can create spaces that are welcoming, functional, and energy efficient. Whether you stick to traditional bulbs and fixtures or explore the flexibility of smart lighting, thoughtful choices today will brighten your home for years to come.



Home Lighting Guide

The following information outlines recommendations for home lighting, however, additional options for bulbs, fixtures and spaces in your home may be available. Sources: Home Depot, Alcon Lighting

Room/Area	Recommended Lumens	Fixture Types	Smart Tips	Room/Area	Recommended Lumens	Fixture Types	Smart Tips
 Living Room	15-30 per sq. ft. 150 sq. ft. room 2,250 - 4,500 lumens	Ceiling fixtures, can lighting, lamps/ accent lighting	Use smart bulbs to adjust color temp and control remotely.	 Bedroom	10-20 per sq. ft. 120 sq. ft. room 1,200 - 2,400 lumens	Ceiling fixtures or recessed lighting	Motion sensors are great options for nighttime use.
 Kitchen	30-40 per sq. ft. 100 sq. ft. room 3,000 - 4,000 lumens	Recessed ceiling lights or flush mounts	Smart switches can be used to control zones (dining vs. prep); undercabinet motion lights offer late-night illumination.	 Bathroom	50-80 per sq. ft. 60 sq. ft. room 3,000 - 4,000 lumens	Over-vanity fixtures and/or recessed lighting	Cool LED bulbs provide brighter light for shaving, applying makeup, etc.
 Dining Room	10-20 per sq. ft. 100 sq. ft. room 1,000 - 2,000 lumens	Pendant or chandelier fixture	Smart, dimmable bulbs allow various levels of brightness for ambiance.	 Porch/ Home Entry	100-200 per sq. ft. 100 sq. ft. entry 10,000 - 20,800 lumens	Wall lanterns, ceiling mount and/or floodlights	Motion-activated flood lights and/or smart outdoor bulbs are energy efficient and boost home security.

Danvers Fire and EMS Donation

Agralite's Board of Directors approved a donation, and also received matching funds from CoBank, for Danvers Fire & EMS. They used the funds to purchase a thermal imaging camera. Agralite is proud to support our local fire departments!

Pictured is Marissa Chevalier, Agralite's Executive Assistant; Dustin Voorhees, Danvers Fire Lieutenant and Agralite's Mechanic; Tim Nagler, Danvers Fire Chief; and Eric Ziegler, Danvers Assistant Fire Chief



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 50% 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 50% of the state median income (\$58,793 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2026.

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

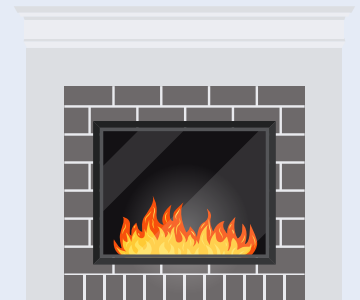
- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance.
- Agralite Electric 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.

Prairie 5 CAC 320-269-7976 West Central CAC 800-492-4805
Heartland CAC 320-235-0850

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. 905001

- 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.



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 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.

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

September 2025

Board Chairman Warren Rau called a meeting of the Board of Directors of Agralite Electric Cooperative to order at 8:30 a.m., September 29, 2025. All members of the Board were present. The agenda, minutes of the last meeting, the monthly disbursements, the payment of capital credits of deceased members, Work Order #586, and August Special Equipment were approved.

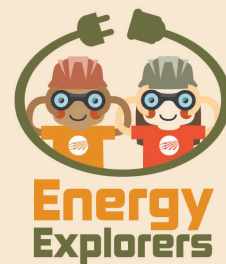
Jonathan Messner, Manager of Member Services, reported on activities of his department for the month. He discussed load control for the month. He discussed distributed energy projects at CVEC. He stated that Agralite had a bucket truck in the Morris Prairie Harvest Fest Parade and Touch-A-Truck event. He discussed the Lignite Energy Council Teacher Seminar and gave an update on the building project.

Stephanie Wroblewski, Manager of Finance/CFO, reported on activities of her department for the month. She discussed margins for the month of August. She discussed patronage received from CFC. She discussed Resolution Authorizing the Amendment of the Retirement Security Plan and the Board approved it. She discussed Resolution of the Board of Directors Adopting Amendment to 125 Plan DCAP Contribution Limit and the Board approved it. She discussed Resolution of the Board of Directors Adopting

FALL SAFETY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Fall is in full swing, and that means the leaves are changing, the weather is crisp and the holiday season is just around the corner! But the fall season also brings a higher risk of home fires and electrical safety hazards. Read the safety tips below and use the clues to complete the crossword puzzle.

Check your work in the answer key.



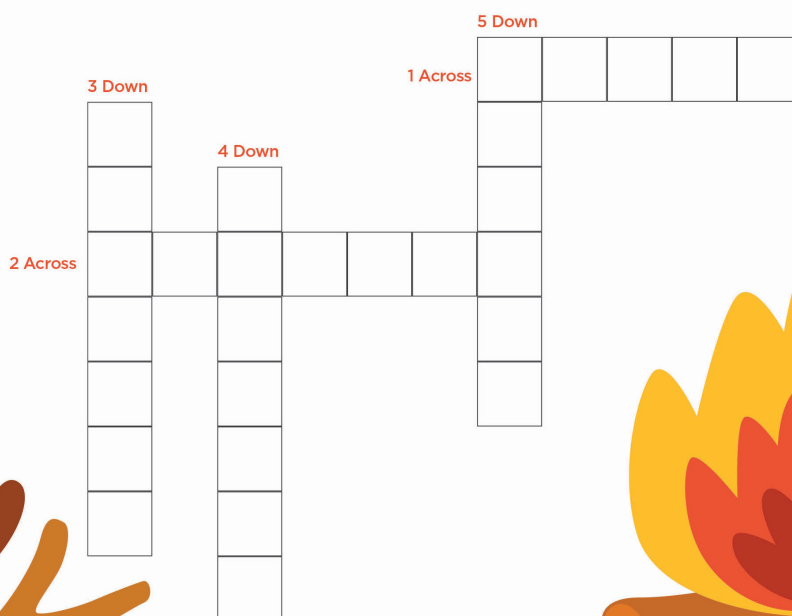
1 Across: An _____ should always be in the kitchen when something is cooking.

2 Across: Keep any items that can burn away from the stove, _____ and other cooking appliances.

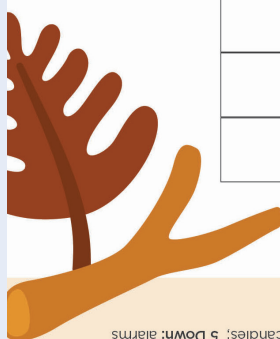
3 Down: Candles and _____ should only be used by adults.

4 Down: Make sure all _____ are blown out before leaving a room.

5 Down: Smoke _____ should be tested every month to ensure they are working properly.



Answer Key: 1 Across: adult; 2 Across: toaster; 3 Down: matches; 4 Down: candles; 5 Down: alarms



Amendment to 125 Plan Increase to Limitation on Health FSA and Limited-Use Health FSA Salary Reduction Contributions and the Board approved it.

The financials were given by Stephanie with a PowerPoint presentation.

Tom Hoffman, Manager of Engineering & Operations, reported on activities of his department for the month. He discussed line crew projects and outages for the month. He gave an update on the Darnen and Hodges substations. He discussed transformer oil testing.

Tom gave the safety report.

Jenny Stryhn, General Manager/CEO, reviewed her report to the board. She discussed the new

headquarters facility and upcoming open house. She discussed recent meetings she attended including the East River Annual Meeting, GRE Managers Meeting, MREA CEO Conference, STAR Board Meeting, and NRECA Region Meeting. She discussed Resolution to Engage into Research and Feasibility Study and the Board approved it. She discussed the upcoming Strategic Planning meeting. She discussed recent visits from Representative Paul Anderson and Senator Amy Klobuchar.

A roundtable discussion was held.

The October board meeting was set for the 30th.

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