



the Wheat Belt Connection

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

JANUARY 2020



Don't miss the Scholarship
Deadline of February 14!

**Your application must be in
the office by that date
(not in the mail).**

Remember it is for high
school graduates or for those
in an undergraduate or
graduate course of study!

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SCHOLARSHIPS

Basin Electric Power Cooperative

- One—\$1,000 Scholarship

Tri-State Generation & Transmission

- Two—\$500 Scholarships

Wheat Belt Public Power District

- One—\$2,000 Lineman Scholarship OR
- Two—\$500 Technical/Vocational Scholarships

Arbor Wealth Management, Inc.

- One—\$100 Scholarship

Application available online to be used for all scholarships.

Application must be in Wheat Belt's office by 4:00pm on February 14, 2020.

- * Deliver—11306 Road 32, Sidney NE 69162
- * Mail—PO Box 177, Sidney NE 69162
- * Fax—308.254.2384 (include cover page)
- * Email—yolanda.hruska@wheatbelt.com

GUIDELINES

- Dependent of a Wheat Belt PPD customer
- College Freshman—Senior (Fall status)
- Full-time enrollment
- Undergraduate or graduate course of study
- Lineman college, two-year or four-year college, university or technical/vocational school
- Lineman college or technical/vocational school and specifically enrolled in a technical field course of study (Wheat Belt PPD Scholarship only)



For More Information:
wheatbelt.com>Youth Info
308.254.5871 / 800.261.7114
yolanda.hruska@wheatbelt.com

APPLICATION DEADLINE FEBRUARY 14, 2020

Wheat Belt Connection
Editor
Pam Wieser

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Drawing Winner

Yolanda Hruska

Congratulations to Sarah Dennison, our November "Lucky Winner!" Sarah is a resident of Cheyenne County and a WB customer since Christmas 2017. She has a 12 year-old daughter and an eight year-old son. Sarah is employed at the City of Sidney and enjoys life on the farm, which includes chickens, goats, horses, cats and dogs.

Sarah receives a \$50 credit for her prompt payment. If you would like to be included in our next drawing, and avoid the \$5 delinquent fee, please send your payment before the 15th of the month. For your convenience, we offer several options. Please give us a call or visit wheatbelt.com, and select the Customer Services menu.



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2019 Nebraska DEQ

Clean Diesel Rebates For Diesel Irrigation Engine Replacement

If you have considered electrifying your Diesel Irrigation motor, but found that conversion costs are just too high, you might consider applying for the Clean Diesel Rebate Program.


You can go on line for the application and instructions at <http://deq.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/NCDGP> according to a notice received at Wheat Belt extending the deadline.

There are a number of stipulations that must be met to qualify, and the deadline for the 2019 application process is January 17, 2020.

**DEADLINE
JANUARY 17, 2020**



JENNIFER ELLIOTT, D.V.M.
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Quotes to Ponder

"People forget years, and remember moments!"

Ann Beattie

"Reality is reality, and perception is too."

Carol Black

"People who enjoy meetings, should not be in charge of anything."

Thomas Sowell (American Economist/Social Theorist)

"Negativity is cannibalistic. The more you feed it, the bigger and stronger it grows."

Bobby Darnell

"Some people will oppose you at every turn. Let them. Just keep being yourself, follow your heart, and do what you think is right."

Akiroq Brost (Inspirational Writer)

"The best way of answering a bad argument is to let it go."

Sydney Smith

"Resilience is knowing that you are the only one who has the power and the responsibility to pick yourself up."

Mary Holloway

"The key to keeping your balance is knowing when you've lost it." Unknown



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Tim Lindahl
General Manager

Tim's Tidbits

Storm Repair



Happy New Year!

I hope the new decade brings good health and prosperity to all of you.

I want to thank all of you for your patience and help during the storm this past month. We had the perfect setup for damage with the significant amount of ice that accumulated on our lines and with the very high winds the next day. Ice adds a great deal of weight and surface area to the wires. The additional load that a 50, 60, or even 70 mile per hour wind places on the system is just more than our poles can take (both new and old poles). We often hear of the hurricanes on the coasts, this was almost a hurricane with the added issue of ice. Even though our damage was extensive, we were expecting worse.

We strive to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. In this case, we started calling additional utilities for help prior to knowing the full extent of damage. This allowed us to get a head start on restoration. We always are asked why some are able to be restored quicker than others. We have a plan when it comes to restoration, and that plan is to get the most people on the quickest. We start at the substation. It does no good to work at the end of the line if we do not have power at the beginning. We focus on our main lines. Once the substations and main lines are restored, we may have the ability to reconfigure

how we route the electricity. We then start working on the branches, those that tie main lines together, then to those that serve the most people, then finally, once all of the residences are restored, those that serve the various other services.

Our infrastructure held up well, considering. We have a robust infrastructure replacement plan in place that helps us replace items such as poles before an outage. In our plan, we focus on areas where we typically have problems during storms. We have \$136,000,000 of infrastructure in the field. We spend \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 annually rebuilding it. If we would rebuild it all within the next ten years, we would have to spend \$14,000,000 per year, which would nearly double your rates. If we would build it all underground, it would nearly triple your rates. Although we do not like the storms that cause this type of damage, we will work hard to prepare for them and have the plans in place to deal with the problems when a storm occurs.

I want to thank all of the employees at Wheat Belt for giving up their holiday weekend, their nights, and their families during this event. Our neighbors helping neighbors also played a significant role in getting the lights on as quickly as we did. Special thanks to Dawson Public Power District, Midwest Electric Membership Cooperative, our suppliers, and all of you who helped pull us through the mud, offered food, kind words, and understanding as we worked through this. We still have a long road of repair ahead of us, but the best thing we have going for us is that we are Nebraskans.

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WHAT TO DO BEFORE THE STORM ARRIVES:



- Listen to your radio, television, or NOAA Weather Radio for weather reports and emergency information.
- Prepare to survive on your own for at least three days. Assemble a disaster supplies kit. Be sure to include winter specific items such as rock salt to melt ice on walkways, sand to improve traction, snow shovels and other snow removal equipment.
- Make sure you have stocked up on food and extra drinking water.
- Dress for the storm: Wear several layers of loose fitting, lightweight warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent. Mittens are warmer than gloves.
- Wear a hat; most body heat is lost through the top of the head.
- Cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs. Be careful when shoveling snow. **Overexertion can bring on a heart attack; a major cause of death in winter.** If you must shovel snow, stretch before going outside and do not overexert yourself.
- Watch for signs of frostbite: loss of feeling and white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes or the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately.
- Signs of hypothermia include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion.
- Check on your neighbors! A few minutes of your time, may save a life!

Wheat Belt highly recommends purchasing a generator. Contact us for information on a Double-throw disconnect.

Wheat Belt Public Power District
P O Box 177, Sidney, Nebraska
Serving parts of Cheyenne, Deuel, Morrill, Garden, Arthur and Keith Counties

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