



OCTOBER 2021

THE WHEAT BELT CONNECTION



AMI INSTALLATION PROJECT UPDATE

By Andy Kuhns - WBPPD IT/AMI Technician

You may have recently come home to find your clocks blinking or maybe you've noticed a new piece of equipment hanging from the utility poles. Wheat Belt's technology department has been busy deploying an updated advanced metering infrastructure (AMI). The new system features many tools and enhancements such as daily and on-demand electrical reads, on-demand voltage readings and interval kWh data. The system also provides tools to help us quickly identify outages and other potential issues. It utilizes RF technology and given the exciting nature of electrical metering you may be inclined to think that RF stands for "Really Fun". It actually stands for Radio Frequency, as the new meters utilize radio waves to send and receive data.

Besides replacing the 5,000+ active meters, several hundred routers and ten collectors are also being installed across our service area. The routers are the white rectangular pieces of equipment hanging from transformer poles throughout the system. These routers work with the meters to help transmit data back to the collectors. From the collector the data is securely sent to the system software where it can be retrieved from our office or through other connected devices.

With over 3,900 meters installed we are entering the home stretch of the AMI deployment. The installation

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Editor - Yolanda Hruska

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OCTOBER IS PUBLIC POWER MONTH

DID YOU KNOW? TWO OF 56 FACTS...

- On average, Nebraska homeowners spend \$3.45 per day for electric service
- Public power is not-for-profit and Nebraska's electric rates are 20 percent below the national average

For more facts visit: <http://www.workingfornebraska.org/resources/fact/>

LUCKY DRAWING

Congratulations to Charles Ardissono, our August "Lucky Winner"!

Charles has a diversified farming and ranching operation. He has one son, one daughter and six grandchildren. His hobby is his career of farming corn, alfalfa and his cow-calf operation. He also enjoys spending time with his family.

Charles has received a \$50.00 credit on his account. If you would like to be included in our next drawing, and avoid the \$5 delinquent fee, please send your payment before the 16th of the month.

For your convenience, we offer several payment options. Please contact us, 308-254-5871/800-261-7114, or visit wheatbelt.com and select the Customer Engagement page for details on payment options.

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NEBRASKA RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION (NREA) JOB TRAINING & SAFETY

POLE TOP RESCUE TRAINING



Pole Top and Bucket Rescue Training is mandated for each lineman every year. This training is critical because of the nature of our industry. They need to practice and have a plan so if something would happen, they will know what needs to be done and how to proceed for their and the injured person's safety.



During our August Safety Meeting, Wheat Belt linemen participated in the training. Each lineman with full gear, approximately 20 lbs., is required to climb a pole and rescue an injured "lineman". A 160 pound mannequin is used during training. They must secure and safely lower it from the pole top to the ground within four minutes. Linemen also train on the procedure to rescue an injured lineman from an extended bucket truck. The training was conducted by NREA Job Training & Safety Instructor, Scot Ouderkirk and Larry Oetken.

HOTLINE SCHOOL



Wheat Belt hosted the annual NREA Hotline School, August 31 - September 2, at the Don Winkelman Training Field located north of Sidney. The school is open to linemen from municipal and rural utility providers. Larry Oetken, of Norfolk, is the JT&S Coordinator.

There were a total of 52 participants. The training included hands-on field work as well as inside class sessions that provided information on high voltage installation, adjustment of switches, and training on regulators and reclosers.



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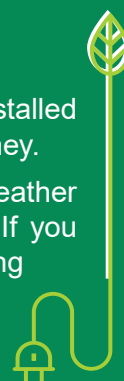
ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month


Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money.

Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

Source: energy.gov



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AMI cont'd from 12-A



is on track for completion later next year. We greatly appreciate the support and understanding that we have received from our customers throughout this project. The result will be a reliable network of equipment, securely passing information and hopping back and forth across radio waves. Since I've often been told that I have a face for radio I guess this is a good fit.



****2021 REBATES****

Our 2021 Beneficial Electrification & Efficiency Products program issues rebates to customers for purchasing and installing energy efficient (EE) products. Our partner, Tri-State, has produced a list of EE products including specs and available rebates. Visit wheatbelt.com/energy-efficiency-rebates for the brochure or call us, 308-254-5871, for more information.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Sharrell Keane Joins Wheat Belt as Manager of Corporate Services/CFO



We are happy to introduce Sharrell, our new Manager of Corporate Services/CFO. Sharrell will focus on key accounts, investment management, long-term financial

forecasting and our strategic plan. She was born and raised in Sidney, therefore, Cheyenne County is especially important to her.

Sharrell comes to Wheat Belt with 25+ years of experience in the customer experience industry. She was previously employed at Cabela's, serving as Vice President of Enterprise Customer Experience.

As the Sidney community experienced rough times, she and her husband Pat, wanted to provide a place where people could gather. In December of 2019, they opened Beans & Steams Coffee House. This was a great endeavor to provide jobs, attract interstate traffic and an opportunity to learn small business acumen.

Sharrell and Pat have two children, Brenner and Jenna. Brenner and his wife Leslie live in Lincoln where he is an Assistant Athletic Director and Business Education Instructor at Parkview Christian High School. Jenna is currently a Music Education major at University of Nebraska Lincoln.

In her spare time, Sharrell enjoys camping and spending time with her family.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING...



9TH ANNUAL

HALLOWEEN HARVEST FESTIVAL!

October 23, 2021 * 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Sunol Community Center

- * Plinko * Cake & Dessert Walk * Bean Bag Toss *
 - * Jail House * Skeleton Ring Toss *
 - * Haunted House * Craft Corner * Silent Auction *
- Closing Bids @ 7:30pm & Winning Bids @ 8:30pm

SUNOL FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Serving Lunch 4-8pm

- * Potato Soup * Chili Soup * Pop * Tea * Bottled Water *

City sponsored

TRUNK OR TREAT

@ Hickory Square - Sidney, NE

Friday, October 29

4:00pm to 6:00pm

Providing a safe
and fun
trick or treating
environment
for our kids!



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