



**BLUESTEM**

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

www.bluestemelectric.com

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# Bluestem NEWS

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## New Employee at Bluestem!



**Jerod Chaffee**

Jerod is the son of Mike and Trudy Chaffee of Clay Center. He grew up in the Clay Center area and graduated from the Clay Center Community High School in 1999. He had worked three years for Sumner-Cowley Electric Cooperative in Wellington, KS, where he gained a lot of valuable experience before coming to BEC.

Jerod plans to marry Amy Floersch in September, daughter of Mike and Nelda Floersch of Clay Center. He says he is looking forward to getting to know the folks from the Wamego area.

His hobbies are sports, hunting and fishing when he finds the time.

## Poles Aren't For Posting

Having a yard sale?

Try advertising it in the local paper instead of on the electric power pole.

It seems everything but linemen are hanging from utility poles these days. You can find birdhouses, signs, basketball goals, satellite dishes and even a deer stand. This creates a virtual maze for the linemen to climb around and through to service the lines.

The stuff hanging on the power poles can hinder a lineman's ability to do their job. The nails and staples used to post announcements could catch a boot or gaff causing the climber to fall or puncture an insulated glove, creating a chance for electrocution. Not only does it endanger a lineman's life but also violates some local ordinances.

Also keep landscaping and fencing several feet away from the power pole, as not to obstruct the line crew.



**An old slant on the use of wind energy that really works!**

## Who is Responsible?

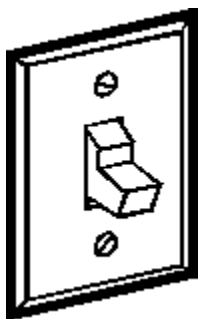
This question has been asked on numerous occasions, "Who is responsible for what portion of the electric lines that supply power to the home?"

Well, it's very simple. Bluestem is responsible for the portion of the lines from the transformer to the meter and the customer for that portion from the meter to the home or structure. All repairs and upgrades from the meter to the home are the responsibility of the customer.

Bluestem is responsible for all maintenance and repairs to lines and poles to the meter, including the meter pole.

## What to Do with that Light - Leave It On or Turn It Off?

There is probably nothing more confusing concerning light bulbs than this: If you're going to be out of a room for a few minutes, should you turn the light off or leave it on?



Gene Meyer, extension mechanical engineer at Kansas State University, has the answer once and for all.

If you use incandescent lights, always shut them off when you leave a room, even if you are going to be gone only a minute or two.

With fluorescent lights, you need to consider both the cost of the lamp and the electricity. When electrical energy was more inexpensive, people left lights on for extended periods because turning a fluorescent light off and on shortens its life.

"At that time, the cost of the bulb was the most significant part of operating a lighting system," Meyer said. "Since those times, things have changed considerably."

Because the cost of energy to operate a light exceeds the cost of the light itself, whenever you leave a room for more than about seven to 10 minutes, it's best to shut off fluorescent lights.

"Most times when you leave a room, even if you think you are going to be returning shortly, you might be delayed, so shut off those fluorescent lights," Meyer said.

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## Watch Where You Put that Freezer

Planning to put your food freezer in an unconditioned space, such as a garage or porch? It can be done, if several precautions are taken, advises Doug Walter, president of Kansas Building Science Institute in Manhattan.

First, avoid locations in direct sunlight or where the air temperature is likely to rise well above the outdoor ambient air temperature, such as in a poorly ventilated garage or shed exposed to the sun.

Prolonged temperatures above 110 degrees may cause the temperature inside the freezer to rise above safe levels, Walter said.

Second, avoid dirty locations. Dirt will coat the freezer's condenser coils, resulting in poor performance and higher operating costs.

Third, the freezer should not be located in remote or out-of-the-way locations where you are unlikely to check on it regularly. During the heat of summer, a fully loaded freezer will begin to thaw in 48 hours if a malfunction causes it to stop working.

"A freezer should be checked at least every other day to make sure it is operating properly," Walter said.

## Meet Bluestem's Summer Interns



**Derek Francis**

Derek is the son of Devin and Debbie Francis of Wamego. He graduated from Wamego High School in 2002 and lives with his parents in Wamego while attending the Electrical Lineman's Program at the Manhattan Technical College.

His hobbies are anything that involves the great outdoors.



**Jerod Vathauer**

Jerod Vathauer is from Waterville, KS and graduated from Valley Heights Jr. Sr. High School.

He is the son of Robert Vathauer, stepmother Libby Vathauer, Luann Carter (mother) and stepfather Todd Carter. He has two sisters Stacy and Jenny and a brother Daniel. Also, a stepsister Andrea and three stepbrothers Adam, Cody and Colton.

He decided to become an electrical lineman, because he has friends in the field that have told him how much they enjoy it and the fact that he gets to work outdoors.

His hobbies consist of hanging out with friends, fishing, boating and playing sports.