



BLUESTEM
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
www.bluestemelectric.com
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614 E Hwy 24
P.O. Box 5
Wamego, Kansas 66547
Phone (785) 456-2212

524 Dexter
P.O. Box 513
Clay Center, KS 67432
(785) 632-3111

Bluestem Summer Electric Rate

Bluestem's Single-Phase Summer Electric Rate (typically residential) became effective June 1st and will apply to electrical usage from June 1st through September 30, 2006. Therefore, June's bill, which you will receive some time around the first of August, will reflect a higher rate for the summer months.

Why do electricity costs increase in the summer? The main reason is that the demand for electricity goes up due to the need for air conditioning.

Utilities must have enough generating capacity to meet their greatest demand for power throughout the year, which is usually in the summer months. Their cost of owning and operating the additional generating capacity necessary to meet the high summer peaks is reflected in the higher rates charged in the summer.

If you have any questions regarding the Summer Rate please contact your appropriate office and also ask about other optional rates that you may qualify for.

Lightning Strikes – Period!

Data from the National Weather Service shows that lightning strikes are fatal in approximately 10 percent of strike victims. Another 70 percent of survivors suffer serious, long-term effects.

Outdoors is the most dangerous place to be during a lightning storm. Because lightning can travel sideways for up to 10 miles, blue skies are not a sign of safety. If you hear thunder, take cover. For protection in homes and buildings, consider installing a lightning protection system to intercept lightning strikes and guide the current harmlessly to the ground.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International recommends following these guidelines to stay safe during electrical storms:

- If possible, go indoors. Once indoors, stay away from windows and doors. Do not use corded telephones except for emergencies.
- Unplug electronic equipment before the storm arrives and avoid contact with electrical equipment or cords during storms.
- Avoid contact with plumbing, including sinks,

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School Starts in August



Drive carefully and watch for school buses stopped for children on the roadway!

Offices to Close for Labor Day

The Bluestem offices will be closed Monday, September 4, 2006. In case of an outage problem call:
Bluestem East – (785) 456-2212 or 1-800-558-1580
Bluestem West – (785) 632-3111 or 1-800-297-8725

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baths and faucets.

- If outdoors, go to a low point. Lightning hits the tallest object. Get down if you are in an exposed area. Stay away from trees.
- Avoid metal. Don't hold metal items, including bats, golf clubs, fishing rods, tennis rackets or tools. Avoid metal sheds, clothes lines, poles and fences.

If you feel a tingling sensation or your hair stands on end, lightning may be about to strike. Crouch down and cover your ears. Stay away from water. This includes pools, lakes, puddles and anything damp, such as wet poles or grass.

Don't stand close to other people. Spread out. And don't forget pets during thunderstorms. Doghouses are not lightning-safe. Dogs that are chained can easily fall victim to a lightning strike.

Victims of lightning strikes should be given CPR if necessary and get medical attention.

For more information on lightning safety:

- Electrical Safety Foundation International – www.electrical-safety.org
- Lightning Protection Institute – www.lightning.org.

For more on work place safety:

- U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration – www.osha.gov

For consumer safety:

- Consumer Product Safety Commission – www.cpsc.gov.

Home Cooling Tips: Do Attic Fans Really Work?

Many homes have large electric attic fans to help with summertime cooling. By exhausting hot attic air, they reduce the amount of heat that is transmitted down through the ceiling into your home. If you use air conditioning, this will tend to reduce the length of time that your air conditioner runs, and so reduce its operating cost. But in many houses, two other simple measures – insulation and ventilation – are more effective and cheaper in the long run than attic fans.

Attic insulation is still one the best ways to keep your home comfortable in both summer and winter. A thick blanket of attic insulation—12 to 16 inches in temperate areas, and 16 to 20 inches up north—will effectively stop attic heat from moving down into your home. In winter, attic insulation works by slowing heat flow out of your home and up into your attic.

Test Your Air Conditioner Before You Touch

Hot weather brings increased use of air conditioners. Contact with electric current from air conditioners accounts for a significant number of electrocutions and electrical injuries annually. Remembering to “test before you touch” can avoid deaths, injuries and economic losses due to electrical hazards in the home or work place.

Electrical hazards are the sixth leading cause of workplace fatalities. Contact with large appliances, such as air conditioners, contributes to nearly 20 percent of consumer product electrocutions.

Attic ventilation takes advantage of simple passive attic vents to remove heat from your attic in summer as well as removing moisture in winter. Attic vents should be distributed around your attic so heat or moisture don't accumulate in the corners, and they should be split with some high and some low in the attic to encourage natural circulation. If installed properly, they will remove almost as much heat from your attic as a powered fan.

Check your attic insulation and ventilation, or have a contractor do so, and add more if needed. These simple measures will last as long as your home and will improve your comfort year round. They'll also reduce the cost of running an air conditioner or attic fan. Best of all, these two energy-savers don't use a bit of electricity and they are perfectly quiet.

- Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to help prevent electrocutions.
- Understand your electrical system—know which fuse or circuit breaker controls each switch, light and outlet.
- Make sure circuits are turned off before starting work, and take measures to make sure they are not turned back on while working.
- Use a circuit tester. Make sure it is working by testing it before and after you use it to test the circuit.
- Always test before you touch.

Trustee Nomination and Election Process

This is an excerpt from the Bluestem Electric Cooperative bylaws.

Section 4.05, Nomination of Trustees: The board shall appoint a nominating committee, on or before the first of October of each year, consisting of not less than one, nor more than five members from each district for whom a Trustee is to be elected. Board members may not serve on the nominating committee.

Only committee members from

each district will nominate their own candidate. Committee members from districts one and two will meet together at Clay Center and committee members from districts three and four will meet together at Wamego. Nominating committees shall meet during the month of October. On or before the first day of November, the nominating committee shall prepare and post a list of nominations for Trustee at the Wamego office if a Trustee is to be

elected from districts three or four and at the Clay Center office if a Trustee is to be elected from districts one or two. The committee shall nominate one or more candidates for each position. Nominations may be made by petition, filed on or before the close of business, December 1, at the Wamego office for Trustees to be elected from districts three and four, and at the Clay Center office for Trustees to be elected from districts one or two. The peti-

tion must be signed by no less than 5% of the membership of the district for whom the Trustee is to be elected. The secretary shall immediately post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations by the committee is posted. Nominations made by the petition shall appear on the ballot in the order received

Section 4.06, Election of Trustees: The election of Trustees shall be by mail ballot. Only those nominees

selected by the nominating committee or nominated by petition shall appear on the ballot. There may be write-In votes for a qualified member not named on the ballot. The ballot shall first list the name(s) nominated by the committee, then the name(s) nominated by petition in the order received and, at the end, a place to write in a name. Failure of strict compliance with provisions of this section shall not affect the validity of any election of Trustees.

The secretary shall mail the ballots to the respective members on or before the 10th day of December of each year. On or before the first day of January of each year, ballots must be postmarked or received at the Wamego office or the Clay Center office.

Those members who have been appointed to serve on each district's respective nominating committee will be listed here in next month's *Kansas Country Living Magazine*.