



BLUESTEM
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
www.bluestemelectric.com
December 2006

Bluestem NEWS

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

Annual Meeting Announcement

The Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc., Annual Meeting will be held on March 12, 2007, at the Riley County High School just north of Riley.

The Annual Meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Official Notice of the Annual Meeting will be mailed approximately 10 days prior to the meeting.

We hope that you will plan to attend the Annual Meeting and take part in the business of the cooperative.

Trustee Elections This Month

In the next few days you will be receiving a voting packet for the Trustee elections at Bluestem Electric Cooperative. Please follow the directions and return your marked ballot in the envelopes supplied.

Ballots must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2006, to be counted. The teller committee will meet on January 11, 2007, at the Riley County High School at 7 p.m. to tabulate and certify the election results.

The results of the election of Trustees will be printed in the February edition of the *Bluestem NEWS* located in the *Kansas Country Living* magazine.

From the Manager...

NOTICE: The Due Date is Changing!

2007 Planned Dates for Transition

Usage Month	Meters Read	Bills Received by Member	Due Date	ACH Date
December	1/1	1/29	2/20	2/12
January	2/1	2/24	3/13	3/13
February	3/1	3/19	4/3	4/3
March	4/1	4/12	4/25	4/25
April	5/1	5/12	5/25	5/25

For many years, the Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc. has issued bills on what is referred to as a "turn-around" billing cycle. That is, we issue a bill a month after you use the energy and ask you to pay that bill by the 20th of the following month. For example, the energy you used in August was billed at the end of September and due by October 20th. This method was necessary because we needed to gather meter readings, which were sent in with the prior bill's payment to "turn-around" and bill again.

Although it was necessary, it is very confusing for everyone (our staff included). Now, with the automated meter reading (AMR) system in place, we can bill on a timelier basis!

Over a period of three months, we will gradually move up the due date until we reach a final due date of the 25th of the month following the month of use. In other words, and in keeping with the above example, the bill for energy used in August will now be due September 25th.

The chart above shows the

timing of the transition. We picked three of the lowest bill months to avoid the high energy costs of summer. Please especially note the due date and, if you are a member who pays by automatic bank draft, the ACH date.

The Board and staff of the BEC are excited about this change and believe you will be, too! The bills will be timelier, high usage issues will be discovered more quickly, and the month of energy being paid for will more closely coincide with when the energy was used. Once the change is completed, the billing cycle process will be much less confusing!

We realize that for some of our members an extra payment this next year will be burdensome. Please let us know and we will be happy to work out an arrangement with you.

Kenneth J. Maginley,
General Manager

ATTENTION High School Seniors

NOW is the time to apply for a \$500

**Bluestem Electric Cooperative Educational
Scholarship. If you are interested in applying see your
school counselor for details or call Bluestem Electric
Cooperative at (785) 456-2212 or (785) 632-3111**

Application Deadline is December 16, 2006

Christmas Tree Safety

The combination of blazing fireplaces and Christmas trees make for great Christmas carols, but they are a bad combination for safety.

A dry evergreen is highly flammable. Sometimes, even a minor spark can ignite it and fireplaces are notorious for emitting sparks. It is important to place your tree in a room separated from your fireplace if possible. If it is not possible, be sure there is plenty of distance between



them, and never leave a fire blazing near your tree when going to bed or leaving home.

Before installing your Christmas tree in the tree stand, cut off one inch from the bottom of the trunk to enable your tree to absorb the amount of moisture it needs every day.

Bluestem Electric wants you to have a Merry Christmas, but leave the open fires and Christmas trees to the carols and not your living room.

Cold Weather Rule In Effect

November 1 to March 31

Cooperative members who are unable to pay their electric service bills during the cold weather period may qualify for this cold weather program. The requirements are summarized below:

- Members must notify the cooperative and state their inability to pay their bill in full.

- Members must apply to federal, state, local, or other financial assistance programs, for which they may be eligible to receive aid in paying utility bills.

- Members and the cooperative will reach a mutually agreeable payment arrangement.

Please note that failure to follow the above requirements, illegally diverting utility service, receiving service by tampering, or defaulting on a payment agreement, will disqualify the member from receiving benefits under the Cold Weather Rule.

The cooperative will send one written notice mailed first class at least five days prior to termination of service. A member may not be disconnected until a 24-hour forecast above the activating temperature predicted by the National Weather Service. The cooperative shall make at least one telephone call attempt to the customer of record on the day prior to termination and a personal contact attempt on the day of termination prior to termination of service.

In no event will the cooperative disconnect service if the temperature is forecast to fall below 35 degrees Fahrenheit within 24 hours following the time of disconnection. The Cold Weather Rule is to insure that human health and safety are not unreasonably endangered during the cold weather months.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Our offices will be closed on

December 25

& January 1

-----Clip and Save-----

2007 Bluestem Holiday Closings

January 1.....	New Years Day
May 28.....	Memorial Day
July 4.....	Independence Day
September 3.....	Labor Day
November 22 & 23.....	Thanksgiving
December 24 & 25.....	Christmas