



BLUESTEM

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

www.bluestemelectric.com

September 2007

Bluestem NEWS

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Nominating Committee Selected

Each year the Board of Trustees of the cooperative shall appoint a nominating committee(s) whose function is to nominate one or more candidates for trustee positions with expiring terms. The Bluestem Board of Trustees has appointed the following members to serve on the respective nominating committees.

Districts 1 & 2

(to meet in Clay Center on October 9th)

District 1

Rod Stewart - Washington

Dale Rippe - Linn

Daryl Stuenkel - Palmer

District 2

Carl Fengel - Oak Hill

Richard Renz - Riley

Districts 3 & 4

(to meet in Wamego on October 9th)

District 3

Kenneth Suther - Blaine

Larry Savage - Soldier

Rick Ridder - St. George

Valdimer Bairow - Wamego

District 4

Charles Pence - Alta Vista

Gerald Barthuly - Paxico

The following is a list of Trustee positions with expiring terms:

District 1, Position 1

Dale Keesecker - Washington

District 2, Position 2

Don Sutter - Oak Hill

District 3, Position 3

Dan Pollock - Havensville

District 4, Position 2

Alice Kimble - Alma

Professional Home Energy Audits

Home energy audits determine how much energy your home consumes and assesses what measures you can take to make your home more efficient.

A professional home energy auditor can help you assess the energy efficiency of your home. The auditor should do a room-by-room examination of your home, as well as look at your previous utility bills. In addition, the auditor should perform a blower door test and a thermographic scan.

A blower door is a powerful fan that mounts to the frame of an exterior door. The fan pulls air out of the house lowering the air pressure inside causing the higher outside air pressure to flow in through unsealed cracks and openings. In addition to the blower door, the auditors may use a smoke pencil to help detect air leaks within your home.

The thermographic scan

allows auditors to check the effectiveness of the insulations within your home. The scan uses specially designed infrared video or still cameras showing surface heat variations in your home. The resulting thermogram helps auditors determine if your home needs insulation and where the insulation should go.

However, before the auditor begins the blower door test and the scan of your home, they will first examine the outside of the home. Auditors determine the size of your home and its features, such as the wall area and number of windows. They will also ask you questions about your home, such as what the average thermostat setting is for the summer and winter and how many people live in the house.

For a listing of energy auditors and home energy raters visit www.ratingsalliance.org/raters/ks.htm.

Truck for Sale By Sealed Bid

A 1988 GMC, one-ton truck is for sale by sealed bid. The truck has a 350 gas motor, automatic transmission, flatbed with electric over hydraulic hoist, and has approximately 91,000 original miles.

This truck may be viewed at Bluestem's facility in Clay Center. Please call (785) 632-3111 to schedule a time.

Sealed bids must be submitted to the Clay Center or Wamego of-



rice by October 12, 2007. Bids will be opened at the October 15, 2007, Board meeting. The Board of Directors reserves the right to refuse any and/or all bids.

Farm Safety: Planting Seeds of Caution Reaps Safer Harvest!

The rush to harvest can yield tragic results. Each year, dozens of farm workers are killed and hundreds injured in accidents involving power lines and electric equipment. Bluestem urges farmers to be proactive in identifying potential safety hazards so accidents can be prevented.

“Things people see every day can fade from view and in the busy-ness of harvest time, it is easy for farm workers to forget about the power lines overhead,” said Don Johnson, Assistant Operations Superintendent at Bluestem East. “Failure to notice power lines can be a deadly oversight.”

Farm workers should remember to look up and around them while working with tall equipment and extensions like augers. Everyone on the farm needs to be aware of the location of power lines and to keep equipment at least 10 feet away.

Bluestem recommends farmers take these steps for a safe harvest season:

- Review with all workers the farm activities and work practices that take place around power lines.
- Know the location of power lines and keep farm equipment at least 10 feet away – above, below and to the side – a 360 degree rule.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of a grain truck. It can be difficult to estimate distance and sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. When moving large equipment or high loads near a power line, always use a spotter, or someone to help make certain contact is not made



A primary line carrying 7,200 volts of electricity fell on this tractor when the driver came too close to the electrical pole.

- with a line.
- Always lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level - under 14 feet - before moving or transporting them. Variables like wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can combine to create an unexpected result.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern tractors with higher antennas.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path!
- Do not use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins.
- As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes, and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.

- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems. “It is also important for farm equipment operators to know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line,” Johnson said. “Staying inside the vehicle unless there is fire or imminent risk of fire, is generally the best course of action. If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the cooperative linemen arrive to make sure power to the line is cut off.”

If there is a threat of fire or other risk, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Continue to hop or shuffle to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Once safely away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Many electrocutions occur when the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.



Labor Day

Our offices will be closed

Monday, September 3, in observance of Labor Day