

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS



WHEATLAND ELECTRIC

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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FROM THE MANAGER

A Matter of Principles



Bruce Mueller

There are seven cooperative principles that give all co-ops guidance. Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values, adopted by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA). Cooperatives trace the roots of these principles to the first modern cooperative founded in Rochdale, England in 1844.

Wheatland Electric Cooperative Inc., was formed in 1948 based on the cooperative business model, with the foundation of these seven cooperative principles:

- ▶ 1. Voluntary and Open Membership
- ▶ 2. Democratic Member Control
- ▶ 3. Members' Economic Participation
- ▶ 4. Autonomy and Independence
- ▶ 5. Education, Training and Information
- ▶ 6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
- ▶ 7. Concern for Community

Stephen Covey, the late author of *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, once said, "We should begin with the end in mind." This is another way of answering the question: What are we trying to accomplish? With that advice in mind, we

begin with focusing on Principle 7: Concern for Community.

Concern for the community is the reason why Wheatland Electric was founded. The people in our parents', grandparents' or great grandparents' generation came together using the cooperative business model as their guide. It was their concern for our community—to bring safe, reliable and competitively priced electric power to our region—that defined our purpose.

The ICA provides the following explanation for Principle 7: While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of communities through policies and programs accepted by the members.

It is in that spirit of meeting the needs of our communities that Wheatland Electric offers wholesale water and broadband internet services. In addition to providing electric service, Wheatland Electric gives back to the communities we serve through programs such as Youth Tour, school safety programs, and Relay for Life.

For cooperatives, these are easy decisions to make because unlike investor-owned businesses where the owners and employees can be far removed from the users of the services, at Wheatland Electric

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Powelson Honored for Volunteerism



Shawn Powelson

Wheatland's Manager of Member Services, **SHAWN POWELSON**, has been named the 2014 Scott Community Volunteer of the Year.

Powelson was nominated for his community involvement with Wheatland, the Chamber, and a recovery program that he helped his local church implement.

Powelson joined the Chamber board seven years ago shortly after he and his family moved to Scott City. He is regularly involved in the varied community events organized by the Chamber. Once he joined Wheatland, Powelson said that being involved in the myriad of community events that the co-op sponsors was a natural fit.

"I'm fortunate that Wheatland has a philosophy of allowing their people to be involved in the community. A lot of things I'm able to do because they allow me the time," he said.

Regarding the recovery program, Powelson added, "There are lots of people who give their time and resources, that is one of the greatest things about the way it has panned out. It's much bigger than one person."

Powelson is the second Wheatland employee to be honored for this award. Marcia Matthies, Wheatland's CSR, received the award in 2012.

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the owners and users are the same people—you!

This is why we call you a member-owner and encourage you to actively engage with us. The health and long-term sustainability of our communities depends on all of us participating and caring about each other and our life in Kansas.

Speaking about Concern for the Community, Wheatland will be organizing a food drive across our entire service territory, starting this month and running through the end of October. The theme of the food drive is "Cram the Van." We'll have a red Wheatland van all "logo-ed" up for the duration of the drive.

Look for the van at community events throughout our service territory, including football games, festivals and special "Cram the Van" Days held at our local service offices and other designated locations throughout our service territory.

One event will be on September 12 in Syracuse. We'll have the van at the Syracuse High School football

game and we'll cook up hamburgers and hot dogs in exchange for canned goods. You bring us a food item and we'll trade you for a burger or dog.

If you don't want to wait until you see the van to make a donation, stop by your local office. All Wheatland offices will be designated drop-off points for food donations through the end of October.

In addition to our local service offices, members will be able to make donations at the City Hall in Caldwell and Hired Man Grocery in Conway Springs. All donations will be made to the local food bank in the community that the item was donated in. Help us "Cram the Van."

Since Wheatland was first formed in 1948, our primary concern has been for the communities we serve. Going forward, we will continue to work for the sustainable development of all the communities we serve. We welcome your input as we work to meet your needs for the future.

Until next time, take care.

Wheatland Hosts Tractor Giveaway Registration Day

Wheatland hosted a KBUF Tractor Registration Day at Tribune on August 7. The lineman and staff along with Trustee Roe Johnson served up hot dogs and hamburgers for those who registered and held a drawing of their own for a \$50 Visa gift card and four tickets to Schlitterbahn Waterpark in Kansas City.

Western Kansas Broadcast in conjunction with KBUF 1030 AM, is giving away a fully restored Spirit of '76 Case 1030 Tractor. The station will host approximately 20-25 registration



Wheatland employees Mace Bender (left) and David Allen with Trustee Roe Johnson grill lunch at the Tribune Tractor Registration Day.

days throughout its listening territory.

Each registration location will draw a number of finalists for that specific location and ultimately a total of 250 finalists will be drawn from all registration locations. On August 23, the final drawing will be held in Hoxie.

Help “Cram the Van” to Support Local Food Banks

In keeping with Cooperative Principle No. 7, Concern for Community, Wheatland is organizing a territory-wide food drive called “Cram the Van.” We’re encouraging all of our members to pitch in and help us support the local food banks in their community by helping us to **“CRAM THE VAN.”**

Most people have never had to experience wondering where their next meal will come from or sometimes even if they’ll get one. Unfortunately, for many people that is their reality. Local community food banks are often a lifeline for people who find themselves in this situation.

Most often the work of these small town food banks and the organizations that run them go largely unnoticed. The need for donations is always great and the work to gather them seemingly endless.

The **“CRAM THE VAN”** campaign will start in mid-September and run through October. As part of the campaign, we’re asking our members to drop off non-perishable food items to their local Wheatland Electric office.

At the conclusion of the campaign, we will collect items from each office and cram the van with your donations and deliver them to the



local food bank in your community.

In addition to our local Wheatland offices, we’ve designated the Caldwell City Hall and Hired Man Grocery in Conway Springs as donation drop off points.

To help create awareness and make the campaign fun for everyone we plan to take the van out into the communities and team up with local events where we’ll ask you to help us **“CRAM THE VAN”** onsite. See the schedule below for upcoming **“CRAM THE VAN”** events.

Our friends at the Hotel at Waterwalk in Wichita have donated several nights stay that we will be using as drawing items at many of

the events. So, help us **“CRAM THE VAN”** and you may win a free night’s stay at the Hotel at Waterwalk in Wichita. Be sure and watch for the big red Wheatland van with the “Cram the Van” logo in your community!

“CRAM THE VAN” and you may win a free night’s stay at the Hotel at Waterwalk in Wichita.

“Cram the Van” at These Local Events

- ▶ **Sept. 11—WOMEN’S FAIR**, Garden City
- ▶ **Sept. 12—SYRACUSE BULLDOGS FOOTBALL GAME**, Syracuse
- ▶ **Sept. 15-19—BATTLE OF THE BIRDS**, Conway Springs
Battle of the Birds is a week-long food drive that pits the Conway Springs Cardinals against the Garden Plain Owls. Students of both high schools as well as community members compete to see who can collect the most food items. The competition officially ends after the first quarter of the annual football game rivalry.
- ▶ **Sept. 23—WOMEN’S EXPO**, Great Bend

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Take a Ride on the Touchstone Energy Balloon

Wheatland Electric is excited to bring the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon to the 2014 Showdown on the Plains Airshow and BBQ Festival in Scott City on September 6 at the Scott City Airport.

Wheatland members, as well as all of those in attendance, will have the opportunity to take a free tethered hot air balloon ride as a part of the day's festivities. Tethered balloon rides will be available from approximately 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. weather permitting.

John Petrehn of Leawood is slated to be the pilot for the balloon's Showdown appearance. John is a two-time winner of the World Hot Air Balloon Championships, and recent winner of the 2014 U.S. National Championship.

This year's airshow will feature an exciting performance by the legendary P-51 Mustang Gunfighter, a vintage World War II era fighter plane. Also included will be thrilling formation aerobatics from Team Vortex and a jet-powered



Wheatland is excited to bring the Touchstone Energy Balloon to our members at this year's Showdown.

dragster. In addition to the airshow and balloon, those in attendance will be able to take in a whole host of other activities including vintage airplane and helicopter rides, bounce houses, and delicious barbecue.

Wheatland is excited to bring the Touchstone Energy Balloon to our members at this year's Showdown and proud to be a sponsor of this great family-friendly event.

Showdown attendees will have the opportunity to take a free tethered hot air balloon ride!

Rebates Available to Upgrade Your HVAC

Save Energy, Save Money



Did you know that Wheatland offers rebates to residential members for the installation of energy-efficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems?

Heating and cooling a house often accounts for the majority of a household's monthly energy costs. Many homeowners have a great opportunity to save energy and money by installing a more efficient HVAC system.

Essentially, higher efficiency equates to lower monthly energy bills and improved comfort. For

example, you could receive a \$410 rebate for a four-ton (48,000 BTU) heat pump.

For eligibility requirements or to download a rebate form, visit www.weci.net and click on the "Energy Education" tab and then on "Rebates." You can also contact any local office.

Rebate Levels

BTU	Min SEER	Central A/C	Heat Pump
Up to 36,000*	13	\$200	+\$150

*Add \$30 for each 1/2 ton above 3 ton (36,000 BTU)

Plug-in to Savings!