

33rd year 8th Issue

September 2022

## NEWS

<i>Wyoming State Fair</i>	1
<i>Safety Information</i>	2
<i>Wyoming State Fair continued</i>	3
<i>Board Room News</i>	4

Wyoming State Fair is a busy week for participating Electric Cooperatives.

Neighboring Co-op, Wheatland REA, has a team that works all week. Other Co-ops from our state have designated days to send at least one person to work at the booth and one Lineman to work with safety demonstrations and pole climbing lessons.

The education and interaction to members and non-members alike during this time is taken seriously and efforts resulted in an Top Education award from the Wyoming State Fair Board.

The award was handed out on Saturday (NEA's work day) and Doug Lytle is seen in the adjacent photo accepting it on behalf of and all the participating Co-ops.

## Top Education Award At Wyoming State Fair



## RESAP INSPECTION

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Larry Oetken, Job Training Safety Coordinator with Northeast Community College (also associated with Nebraska Rural Electric Association) brought a team of 9 safety inspectors comprised of employees from neighboring coops near and far, to conduct NEA's first official Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) inspection. RESAP's goal is to "Work with representatives from statewide association safety professionals, distribution and G&T cooperatives and Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange to create a culture of safety."

The inspection took an entire day with the team scouring the office, shop and trucks checking for safety violations and potential hazards. At the end of the day during the report out and review, the NEA team was told that we did very well for our first inspections. We had three violations that need to be corrected immediately otherwise suggestions were made for improvements where they thought were necessary.

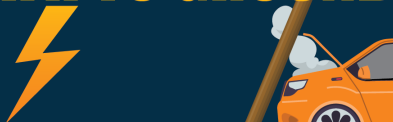
Kudos were given specifically on how well our crew worked together and stressed safety. They were also impressed on the cleanliness and organization of our shops as well as how friendly and knowledgeable our staff were when asked questions by the audit team.

Annual Performance Measures (OSHA data) and a Safety Improvement Plan are completed in the RESAP program each year. Onsite visits are conducted on a rotation due to the number of participating Electric Cooperatives and Public Power Districts.

NEA's safety record speaks for itself as it has been 3 years since our last lost time incident. General Manager Shawna Glendy states "we are very proud of our team and their commitment to safety. Line work is one of the most dangerous jobs out there, our guys take it seriously and do everything they can to make sure everyone goes home safely at the end of the day."

NEA voluntarily entered the RESAP program because of our commitment to our members and employees, along with our belief in elevating our safety culture and work practices.

## Don't Become Electricity's **PATH TO GROUND**



When electric utility equipment becomes damaged, **the ground and objects can become energized.**

If you are in a situation where there could be downed power lines or a damaged pole, guy wire or padmount transformer (green box), **know what to do to save your life and the lives of others:**

### CAR ACCIDENT

**Stay inside your vehicle** or cab since the ground or objects could be energized.



**Call 9-1-1** and report that there are downed or damaged power lines or a dislodged green box.

**Wait for the utility crew** to arrive to deenergize the power.

**Do not exit** until someone from the utility says it is safe to do so.

### ONLY EXIT IF THE VEHICLE IS ON FIRE

Cross your arms over your chest and **make a clean jump out.**

**Do not touch** the vehicle and the ground at the same time.

Make solid hops with your **feet together** as far away as you can.

**Do not return** to the vehicle.



### IF YOU ARE A BYSTANDER

**Do not approach** the scene to try and help.

**Stay at least 50 feet away** and do not lean on or touch anything, including fences or guardrails.



Learn more at:

**Safe  
Electricity.org®**





Interaction with State Fair attendees was robust on NEA's work day in the Electric Cooperatives booth. (above photo)

Following the parade in downtown Douglas, WY., NEA Staking Technician Doug Lytle, began registration for the electric bicycle raffle, held that afternoon. In addition to the raffle sign up, give away items were handed out and electrical safety quizzes for prizes took place.

Throughout the day, Niobrara Electric worked with Wheatland REA on pole climbing and safety demonstrations. (photo on right)



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"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."



**Touchstone Energy**<sup>SM</sup>

### Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

7:30 am—5:00 pm

Friday 7:30 am—4 pm

**Outages** ....1-800-322-0544  
or 307-334-3221

Phones are answered 24  
hours a day.

Phones will be answered by  
Niobrara Electric Association  
during office hours and SRS  
will take all other calls and  
dispatch NEA personnel.

**On our website under Services, rebate information is available for our members.**

**A pdf of the 2022 Beneficial Electrical Program has program information on residential and commercial equipment.**

**One example is Outdoor Power Equipment. General specifications and incentive overview listed below:**

- **Applies to Battery and corded electric equipment only.**
- **Members limited to one rebate per product except e-bikes.**
- **An aggregated maximum rebate of \$300 per member account (excludes riding lawn mowers)**
- **25% of cost up to \$1000 for riding mower.**
- **25% of cost up to \$150 for snow blowers, walk-behind mowers and e-bikes.**
- **25% of cost up to \$100 for chainsaws.**
- **25% of cost up to \$50 for trimmers, leaf blowers & power washers.**
- **50% cost up to \$25 for additional batteries with original purchase application.**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### District

John Hester	1	Keeline, WY	President
Andy Barnette	2	Lusk, WY	
David Keener	3	Marsland, NE	Sec./Treas
Bill Wilson	3	Harrison, NE	
AW Manning	1	Lance Creek, WY	
Jim Dunn	3	Harrison, NE	
Neal Wurdeman	2	Lusk, WY	
Bradyn Bruegger	1	Lance Creek, WY	
JD Wasserburger	2	Lusk, WY	Vice President

### **Board Minutes**

Management reported no injuries or near misses. Discussion of WREN Magazine, Guidelines and RESAP Inspection.

Director Wilson reported on Tri-State business.

Director Keener reported on NREA business.

Director Wasserburger reported on WREA report.

We are a member of

