



Photo: Eric Hamm, April Calendar Photo Contest Winner

Agralite Electric Cooperative NEWSLETTER

April 2024

EMPOWERING

communities with
innovative, sustainable
energy solutions

FOR OVER

80 YEARS

Manager's Article *by Jenny Stryhn, General Manager*

I would like to thank everyone who attended our Power Hour events in Clinton and Swift Falls this past month. It was great to meet face to face with our membership and discuss important topics here at your local electric cooperative. One item of discussion at the meeting was the status of the evaluation process for our existing headquarters and the prospect of either renovating our existing buildings or constructing new headquarters. In 2021, Agralite completed a feasibility study comparing the options of remodeling our current facilities versus building offsite outside the city limits. We took the time to diligently review and evaluate all the options that were presented in the study. We decided at that time that neither option met the needs or goals of the cooperative. 1692300 There were significant challenges with both options as they were presented.

At the end of 2023, we reported that the cooperative finalized an updated feasibility study prepared by Engan Associates. This time, we evaluated the difference in costs associated with a remodel of our existing facility originally built in 1966, versus a new facility on our existing property. After close evaluation of not only the cost to renovate our existing buildings, but also the disruptions a major renovation would cause to our ongoing daily operations, the board decided that the longevity and efficiency of a new facility to be built on our current property would best serve Agralite Electric Cooperative long into the future.

Having decided on the best path forward, Agralite started the process of locating a qualified architectural firm to assist with design services for the new headquarters on our existing property. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was drafted and sent to multiple qualified architectural firms. The RFP process allowed us to evaluate the competing firms' relevant project experience with similar buildings, along with the costs associated with having the design completed.

After carefully reviewing the responses, we selected Mohagen Hansen to be the architect of record for our project. The team at Mohagen Hansen not only provided the best proposal to design a new headquarters facility that meets all of our needs well into the future, but also time and cost saving solutions that would minimize disruptions within our current operations during construction.


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Agralite Electric Co-op *We're member-owned!*

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Office Hours
8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.



Touchstone Energy®
Agralite is a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative.

2024 ANNUAL MEETING



SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 4, 2024





Find your account number and win a \$100 credit!

If your account number (as it appears on your monthly electric bill) is one of the [four account numbers](#) hidden in this issue, give our office a call by the end of the month and you will receive a \$100 bill credit. If more than one member finds their account number in a single issue, \$100 will be split equally amongst them.

Congratulations to

Darlene Nichols for finding her account number in the February newsletter.

Energy Saving Tip:

A well-designed landscape can add beauty to your home and reduce heating and cooling costs.



Plant deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns to the south of your home to block sunlight in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home. Plant evergreen trees and shrubs with low crowns to block winter winds. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs are commonly planted to the north/northwest as windbreaks and can help lower energy used for home heating.



Call Day or Night
1.888.884.3887

[Do not call the office for outages](#)

April Energy Payment is due May 20.*
*We accept Visa, Discover & Mastercard.

Manager's Article *Continued*

Agralite has outgrown the capacity of our current buildings. Outdated mechanical equipment and cramped facilities are impacting the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of service. In particular, the shop and mechanic areas need more space with updated equipment to accommodate the size and demands of today's service vehicles while providing safe and appropriate space for our employees.



Agralite in 1966



Agralite Today

The need for a new facility is driven by our mission of providing safe, reliable electrical power and other related services to improve the quality of life throughout our region. The cooperative is looking at a design that will allow us to operate effectively and efficiently, so we can best serve our members in every possible way. We also strive to ensure that we will build it using the most responsible and economical means possible.

While we are still in the beginning stages of the design process, it is important that we keep you, our member owners, informed throughout this process. We appreciate your support and your continued interest in your electric cooperative.



Dig Smart. Dig Safe.

Before you dig, call 811 or visit call811.com to mark underground utility lines. 811 is a free service that helps keep our community safe.



April Is National Safe Digging Month