



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 Greg Neu and Michael Knutson for finding their account numbers in the November newsletter.

Energy Saving Tip:

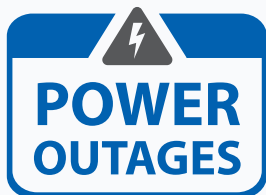


During winter months, ensure your home is well-sealed to reduce the need for excessive heating.

Seal air leaks around your home and add insulation where needed to save up to 10% on annual energy bills.

Install weather stripping on exterior doors and apply caulk around windows. Check attic insulation levels and hire a qualified contractor if additional insulation is required.

Source: energystar.gov



**Call Day or Night
1.888.884.3887**

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

January Energy Payment is due February 20.*

*We accept Visa, Discover & Mastercard.

Manager's Article by Jenny Stryhn, General Manager

I would like to start out by wishing all of our member-owners a Happy New Year! As we look back at 2023, the cooperative had a successful year despite the ongoing challenges the cooperative faced. Energy sales started out strong in January 2023 with very cold temperatures, followed by a hot, dry summer, and ending the year with very mild temperatures, including 50-degree days in December!



[As we look back on 2023, there have been a few large items that we have worked on this past year that I would like to touch on:](#)

- The cooperative continues to move forward with our load control receiver changeouts on our system. This is an important project for our load management system, as it not only reduces energy costs for the member, but it also helps control wholesale power costs for the cooperative. Our goal is to have this project completed in 2024.
- We have finished repairs on our leaning poles from the two major storms that rolled through our territory in May of 2022. This project was approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for straightening. This past July, our north eastern territory was hit with storm with strong winds that caused damage to our system. Our safe and diligent crews restored members' power in a timely fashion.
- The cooperative completed a cost-of-service study with Power System Engineering. The results determined that the increased costs from materials, wholesale power costs, long term interest rates, and equipment costs that the cooperative is incurring are no longer absorbable through our daily operations. After careful consideration, an overall 4.1% rate increase was approved for January 1st, 2024. While rate increases are not easy, they were necessary to continue to provide safe, reliable electricity for our membership today and into the future while maintaining the financial health of the cooperative. These numbers were included in the 2024 budget that was approved by the Board of Directors.
- Agralite continues to evaluate opportunities with our existing cooperative facility. The cooperative headquarters was built in the early 1960's, and while it has worked for Agralite for many years, changes in fleet vehicles, equipment, growth in employees, and operations efficiencies have changed since then. An updated feasibility study was completed this fall on the current facility and estimated costs associated with the study on a remodel versus new facility on our existing footprint. It seems like yesterday that this discussion began, but in reality, it has been years in the making. 1343100 The cooperative continues to carefully navigate each step while completing its due diligence required for such an important undertaking.
- We expanded our member engagement opportunities. The cooperative hosted a MN Twins Youth Baseball Clinic, attended area events including Prairie Harvest Fest, Trunk or Treat, and parades, and hosted a North Dakota Energy Tour. I would like to thank all of our members that joined us for these events as they were very successful!



As we look forward in 2024, Agralite Electric Cooperative will continue to work hard for you, our member-owners. As a not-for-profit utility, Agralite is here to serve our member-owners by providing you with the safe and reliable electricity you've come to expect. Lastly, thank you for your continued interest in your electric cooperative.