



## 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 Charles Hagen for finding his account number in the September newsletter!

### Energy Saving Tip:



Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill.

One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing. Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



## Manager's Article: Building Update by Kory Johnson

As I have mentioned in previous articles, the staff and board of directors are considering the future needs for the cooperative headquarters. Over the years, since the existing facility was built, Agralite has added both materials and equipment to serve the needs of today's cooperative member. Today, Agralite installs and maintains underground primary lines that require equipment and materials that were not in use in the early 1960's when the current facility was designed and built. The members served today by the cooperative have greater electrical needs creating more dependence on reliable electrical services than the member of 1960. Today's digger derricks and bucket trucks are larger with additional lifting capacity and reach to allow our line workers to safely build and maintain the distribution system that serves our members. The cooperative has added specialty equipment to build and maintain the electrical system serving our members in a safe, reliable manner.

*The staff and board have been considering two alternatives to serve the current and future need of the facilities:*

**Option 1** would be to put an addition onto the existing facility. This would accommodate the larger equipment needs of today. The addition to the building would require the cooperative to move one of the existing outbuildings to fit the addition onto the existing property. The existing warehouse would be repurposed. Relocating the warehouse in the existing building would allow access to the new addition. This option also includes remodeling the existing office space. The remodel would better utilize the existing space, allow for the upgrade to a new efficient heating and cooling system in the office, improve security in the office, and also bring the facility to current building code that will be required because of the addition. One key item with the building code would be the requirement of a fire suppression system throughout the building. A fire suppression system would require water holding tanks and fire pumps as the facility does not have municipal water service.

**Option 2** would be an entirely new facility. The city of Benson is looking to develop an industrial park on the south side of the city adjacent to Hwy 29. The site would be served with water and sewer by the city, eliminating the need for water holding tanks and fire pumps. The new industrial site would provide the necessary footprint to accommodate the needs of the cooperative today and into the foreseeable future. 1374601

After reviewing the two options, the board has directed the staff to enter into discussions with the city of Benson to determine the cost to secure the property and the cost for the infrastructure to access the site for a possible new facility. The board considered the estimated cost difference between the two options and felt that the additional cost of a new facility was in the best interest long term for the membership. Investing in the addition and remodel of the existing site would leave us with limited space for any future expansion needs.

## Special Notice: Surveying Members, Fall 2021

Agralite will be conducting a member survey beginning November 22. Please be aware that you may be one of several members who are randomly selected to participate in the survey - so if you get a call or email about a survey from us, it's legit.

Agralite is contracting with a cooperative-affiliated research firm that has years of experience measuring member satisfaction levels and how co-ops score on the American Customer Satisfaction Index. The survey will benchmark several areas of focus, including electric vehicles, member service, electric service, bills and payment options, etc. If you are selected, please take 10 minutes to participate. Thank you!