



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 David Schmidt and Arthur Miles for finding their account numbers in the August newsletter!

Energy Saving Tip:



Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money.

Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

Source: www.energy.gov



Call Day or Night
1.888.884.3887

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

September Energy Payment is due October 20.*

*We accept Visa, Discover & Mastercard.

It's A Matter Of Co-op Principles *Continued*

Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of Agralite Electric Cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars—it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

Agralite Electric Cooperative is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place. And, by the way, that sums up the seventh co-op principle, "concern for community".



Community born.
Community led.
Focused on YOU.

October is
National Co-op Month

Manager's Article by *Kory Johnson, General Manager*

As I write this article at the end of August, rain has finally started to arrive! Much of the area has received 2 to 3 inches over the past several days and the forecast is showing a chance of rain for the next few days. Unfortunately, the rain also came with severe weather this past weekend with strong winds, lightning, and hail in parts of the service area. The line crews worked to restore power to several areas across the system that experienced power outages this past week. It has been a hot dry summer and though the rain has arrived late, it is still a welcome sight to help replenish the land.

This past week, the Agralite board met for the regular board meeting. I am able to report that the cooperative is having a very strong year, both in energy sales and also very strong margins year to date. Agralite has been fortunate to add new loads to the system that help increase energy sales. Also, this summer has seen record sales to irrigation accounts. Year to date for 2021, the sales to irrigation accounts are 15% ahead of any other year for the cooperative in irrigation sales.

In addition to the strong energy sales, the cooperative has very strong margins year to date. Through the month of July, the operating margins, or margins generated by the sale of electricity, were \$1,493,796. The strong margins the cooperative is experiencing is largely due to the load management programs the cooperative offers and many of our member-owners participate in. As a result of the load management programs the membership participates in, the cooperative is able to significantly reduce the demand component of the wholesale power costs the cooperative pays. Through July of this year, I estimate the load control program the cooperative uses has saved \$1,413,029 in demand charges for the member owners of the cooperative. I want to express my appreciation to all those who participate in the variety of programs the cooperative offers.

Manager's Article *Continued*

During the recent board meeting, the board of directors heard a presentation by the architect and general contractor the cooperative has hired to do an evaluation of the existing headquarter facilities. As I have mentioned in prior articles, the cooperative has hired an architectural firm to help determine the future needs of the cooperative's headquarter facilities. The current building was constructed in the early 1960's. Today's equipment the cooperative uses to construct and maintain the electric lines that serve our members has outgrown the 1960's vintage building. The architect is evaluating an addition to the existing facility, renovating the offices in the building to better utilize the existing space, bringing the current facility to current code requirements, and relocating one to the existing outbuildings at the cooperative. One key item that will need to be addressed if the existing facility is remodeled would be the fire suppression code requirements. The entire facility would need to be brought to the current fire code. This would involve installing a sprinkler system throughout the building and installing a water holding tank with backup power to a fire pump. The architect is also comparing the addition and remodeling to a possible entire new facility. As the board and staff review and consider the future facility needs of the cooperative, I will keep you, our member-owners posted as information becomes available. **Please have a safe harvest season!**



Get Familiar With Cyber Basics

October Is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

At a time when we are more connected than ever, being “cyber smart” is of the utmost importance. This year has already seen more than a fair share of cyber attacks and breaches, including the high-profile attacks on the Colonial Pipeline and other critical infrastructure. 590501 Furthermore, as has been underlined by these recent breaches, cyber attacks are becoming more sophisticated with more evolved bad actors cropping up each day. Luckily, there are several steps that we can take on a daily basis to mitigate risks and stay one step ahead of malefactors.



PASSWORD DOS AND DON'TS

A strong password can make all the difference in protecting your personal information. Follow these tips for stronger passwords.

DO:

- Change the manufacturer's Wi-Fi password on your router.
- Use two-factor authentication.
- Use unique phrases (like lyrics to your favorite song) to remember passwords.

DON'T:

- Don't use common words or numbers like “password” or “1234.”
- Don't use personal details like your date of birth in a password.
- Don't use the same password for multiple accounts.

October is
Cybersecurity
Awareness Month.

Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart

Don't Sacrifice Safety For Speed During Harvest

For many farmers, the harvest season is a flurry of activity with long hours and little rest. The pressure to harvest as much as possible — in combination with fatigue and looming deadlines — can result in too little attention being paid to potential hazards. Safe practices should never be compromised for the sake of speed. Doing so could potentially end in tragedy.

Farmers and agricultural workers have dangerous occupations. One of the causes of injury and death in the agricultural industry is electrocution. Of those injuries, overhead power lines are the most common cause of electrocution.

If you are a farm operator or worker, be aware of the location of power lines and keep the following safety guidelines in mind during the harvest season:

- Always use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines. 1122100
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always remember to lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call the local utility immediately.
- If your equipment does hit a power line do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is very rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

To help ensure a safe harvest, stay alert for power lines, exercise caution, and always put safety first.

If you or someone you know would like more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org).