

Photo: Terri Barrett, April Calendar Photo Contest Winner

## EMPOWERING communities

with innovative and sustainable energy solutions

FOR OVER

# 85 YEARS

# NEWSLETTER

April 2026

## Linemen Are Ready When It Matters Most by Jenny Stryhn, General Manager



As the General Manager of Agralite Electric Cooperative, I have the unique privilege of seeing firsthand what it truly takes to keep the lights on for our members. In April, we take time to pause and recognize the brave men who make that possible every single day—our linemen.

When storms impact our communities and outages occur, many people experience the inconvenience, but our linemen see a call to action. Our crews are always ready when it matters most—leaving family dinners, working through the night, and heading into challenging conditions to restore power as safely and quickly as possible. That readiness is not accidental; it comes from rigorous training, deep experience, and a shared commitment to serving others.

What makes linemen especially remarkable is that they aren't just restoring power to a system—they're restoring power to their own communities. They live here. They raise their families here. 893900 They understand that electricity is more than a convenience; it's essential to daily life, to local businesses, to schools, farms and emergency services. Powering the places we call home is personal to linemen.

Electric cooperatives like Agralite Electric Cooperative were built on the principle of neighbors helping neighbors, and our linemen embody that spirit every day. They are the first to respond and the last to leave, often working long hours behind the scenes. At times, serving our neighbors means going beyond our own service territory through a process known as mutual aid.

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## 2026 ANNUAL MEETING



SAVE THE DATE  
May 27th

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

320 US-12, Benson, MN  
(320) 843-4150  
1-800-950-8375  
[www.agralite.coop](http://www.agralite.coop)

 Like us on Facebook



**Office Hours:**  
8:00AM - 4:30PM



Touchstone Energy®  
Agralite is a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative.



## 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 Thomas Dorn for finding his account number in the February newsletter.

### Energy Saving Tip:



As we prepare for the seasonal shift, remember to set your ceiling fan rotation accordingly. In winter months (or whenever your home heating system is running), fan blades should run clockwise, which produces an updraft that pushes warm air down. In the summer months (or whenever your home cooling system is running), blades should rotate counter-clockwise, which produces a downdraft, or windchill effect, that makes you feel cooler. When used correctly, ceiling fans can boost comfort and allow you to adjust the thermostat a few degrees for energy savings.

Source: energy.gov



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, and Mastercard.

## Linemen Are Ready When It Matters Most *Continued*

During major outage events, Agralite Electric Cooperative crews stand ready to assist neighboring co-ops—sometimes close to home, and sometimes across state lines—to help restore power. This spirit of mutual aid strengthens all cooperatives and ultimately benefits the members we serve. We understand any time the lights go out, it can be frustrating and can bring everyday life to a halt. We are incredibly grateful to our members for your patience and encouragement during these times. Linework is demanding, physical, and at times, it can be dangerous. Our crews approach each job with a focus on safety and teamwork. They take pride in their craft and in the trust our members place in them.

On April 13, 2026, we will celebrate Linemen Appreciation Day, but one day is hardly enough. Every day, we thank linemen for their service and dedication. They are the backbone of our cooperative.

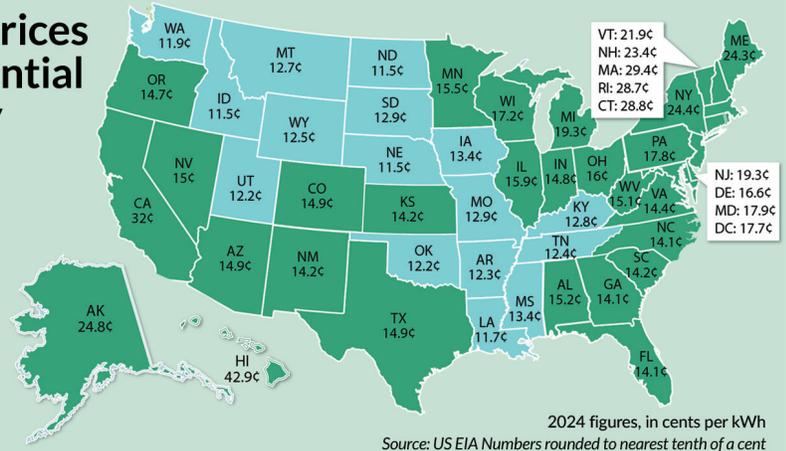
*To our linemen: Thank you for your hard work, your readiness and your unwavering commitment to the communities we serve. We are proud to stand behind you and grateful for all that you do.*

## Average Prices for Residential Electricity

U.S. Average:  
16.5¢ per kWh

Residential Average Price (cents per kilowatt-hour)

- Over 13.5¢
- Up to 13.5¢



2024 figures, in cents per kWh  
Source: US EIA Numbers rounded to nearest tenth of a cent

## Co-ops In The Classroom

Jennifer Gross, with East River Electric, presented Co-ops in the Classroom to 4th grade students at Hancock. This program teaches students about electrical safety, generation, energy efficiency, and conservation.



## It's All About The Energy:

### Join Agralite Electric Cooperative For An Energy Tour Bus Trip

Join us: June 10-12 / \$200 per person / 24 seats available. We're excited to invite you to join us for our 2026 Energy Tour from June 10-12! This three-day luxury coach tour will take you through North Dakota's coal country. We will be touring the lignite coal Freedom Mine and the Antelope Valley Station in Buelah, ND. These energy complexes are owned by Basin Electric Power, a wholesale power provider for Agralite. The group will also tour and learn about North Dakota's rich history along the way. The cost for members is \$200 per person and includes motor-coach transportation, 2 nights lodging at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Mandan, ND, a banquet style dinner with a presentation from a representative from Basin Electric Power and guided tours. All meals are provided except for lunch on the return trip home on Friday, June 12th. This is a fun and educational trip for our members to be able to explore and learn more about how energy is generated and what it takes to be able to flip on a light switch at a moment's notice.

The tour includes visits to:

- The Coteau Properties Freedom Coal Mine
- Basin Electric Powers Antelope Valley Power Station near Buelah, ND
- Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center/Ft. Mandan in Washburn, ND
- The North Dakota History Center

This trip promises to be both fun and educational, and we hope you'll join us for this exciting opportunity.

Sign up by May 20th by calling our office at 320-843-4150.

## TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Don't fall victim to power outage scams. When widespread outages occur, scammers may target affected utility customers. They can contact you via call, text, or email, urging you to act quickly and provide personal information to restore service.

Always communicate with your utility through official channels, such as their website, mobile app, or phone number listed on your bill. Your safety and personal information are worth taking a moment to pause and verify unknown senders.

Source: [ftc.org](http://ftc.org)



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To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

### AGRALITE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE GENERAL SERVICE RATES

As of April 1, 2026

#### General Single Phase

Service Charge	\$52.00
Energy Charge/kWh	12.60¢

#### General Multiphase

Service Charge	\$74.00
Energy Charge/kWh	12.60¢

#### Irrigation

Service Charge 3-ph. (May - Sept.)	\$165.00
Service Charge 1-ph. (May - Sept.)	\$123.00
Uncontrolled Demand Charge/kW	\$28.30
Controlled Demand Charge/kW	\$10.50
Energy Charge/kWh	7.00¢
Energy Charge/kWh (non-summer)	12.60¢

#### Interruptible Generation

Coincident kW	\$24.48
Demand Penalty/kW/control	\$5.00
Single Phase Service Charge	\$52.00
Energy Charge/kWh	8.02¢
>300 kVA 3-Phase Service Charge	\$125.00
Monthly Demand/kW	\$7.50
Energy Charge/kWh	\$4.60¢

#### Security Lights

Metered	\$8.36
Unmetered - 75 Watt LED	\$11.64

#### Service Charge for Load Management

\$2.50

#### Large Power

Service Charge	\$105.00
Demand Charge/kW	\$13.00
Energy Charge/kWh	5.68¢

#### Large Power Service

Service Charge	\$120.00
Coincident Demand Charge/kW	\$26.84
Distribution Demand Charge/kW	\$6.75
Energy Charge/kWh	4.95¢

#### Cycled Air Conditioning

9.00¢/kWh, Jun-Jul-Aug/all other months 7.25¢

#### Interruptible Heat/Peak Shave Water Heater

kWh, Jun-Jul-Aug, (only heat)	12.60¢
kWh, Jun-Jul-Aug, (AC, water heater)	9.00¢
kWh, all other months	7.25¢

#### Storage Water Heaters & Storage Heat

kWh, Jun-Jul-Aug	8.00¢
kWh, all other months	6.75¢

#### Electric Vehicle Storage Service

kWh, Jun-Jul-Aug	8.00¢
kWh, all other months	6.75¢

#### Electric Vehicle Interruptible Service

kWh, Jun-Jul-Aug	9.00¢
kWh, all other months	7.25¢

All rates subject to adjustment based on wholesale power costs.

## Mini Sota Museum

Stop by and check out our exhibits at the Mini Sota Children's Museum in Benson!



## SPRING INTO ENERGY SAVINGS

- Schedule a tune-up for your heating / cooling system.
- Set fan blades to run counterclockwise for cooling.
- Adjust your thermostat a few degrees.
- Take short showers to save on water heating.
- Run major appliances during off-peak hours.



## Director Nominations Now Open For Districts 5, 6, And 7

Would you like to serve as a Director on the Agralite Electric Cooperative Board for your district? 1363200 Agralite Electric Cooperative is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors elected by our membership. The cooperative's service territory is divided into seven districts with each district represented by a director who resides in that district. Directors elected serve a three-year term.

This year we will have an election for directors for Districts 5, 6, and 7.

**District 5 includes the townships of:** Camp Lake, Kerkhoven, Kildare, Hayes, Cashel, Dublin, Pillsbury, and Lake Johanna.

*Update: The current District 5 director is not seeking reelection and there is now an open board seat.*

**District 6 includes the townships of:** Tara, Clontarf, Benson, Marysland, Six Mile Grove, Torning, and Swenoda.

**District 7 includes the townships of:** Stevens, Synnes, Hegbert, Fairfield, Shible, Moyer, Appleton, Edison, West Bank, Artichoke, Upper Akron, and Lower Akron.

Any member meeting the qualifications as specified in the Bylaws of Agralite Electric Cooperative may become a candidate for election to the Board by submitting a written petition for nomination with the signatures of no less than 15 members who are residents of the district for which the election is being held. All voting will be done by mail. Ballots will be mailed to all Agralite voting members on record in these districts before the Annual Meeting. The election takes place at the Annual Meeting on May 27, 2026.

*Please call 320-843-4150 or stop by our office if you have questions on the nominating process or about becoming a director, and to pick up a petition for nomination.*

**Petitions are due to the office no later than 4:30 pm on Friday, April 17th, 2026.**

### AGRALITE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS PETITION FOR NOMINATION

To: Jeff Hufford, Board Secretary

I \_\_\_\_\_, would like to be a candidate to serve as a director for Agralite Electric Cooperative representing District No. \_\_\_\_\_. I hereby certify that I meet the requirements set forth in Article III, Section 2 of the Bylaws of the Cooperative and I request that my name be placed on the ballot that will be mailed to the members with the notice of the annual meeting of the Cooperative to be held on May 27, 2026. I respectfully file this petition with a minimum of fifteen (15) members of the Cooperative who are residents of District No. \_\_\_\_\_ and who support my candidacy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

We, the undersigned, certify that we are members of Agralite Electric Cooperative and that we reside in District No. \_\_\_\_\_. We are familiar with the requirement for serving as a director of the Cooperative and we believe that the above-named candidate meets the requirements to become and/or remain a director of Agralite Electric Cooperative representing District No. \_\_\_\_\_. By our signatures below we show our support for this Petition for Nomination. We further attest that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the above-named candidate is a member of Agralite Electric Cooperative and is a resident of District No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Phone #	Date
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

## Join Us For Our 2026 Power Hour Events

Power Hour events provide members with the opportunity to meet their directors and staff, ask questions and mingle with other co-op members in a casual environment. It is a time to hear what is happening at your local electric cooperative including member programs, work plan projects, and the financial health of the cooperative.

### Upcoming Power Hour Events



#### Club 7-75

66844 State Hwy 7  
Odessa, MN 56276



#### Donnelly Fire Hall

106 E 4th St  
Donnelly, MN 56235



Coffee and rolls will be provided. Our 2026 Power Hour events are open to all co-op members. You are welcome to attend either event, even if it does not align with your district or area. 1691400

Visit our website or call us at 320-843-4150 if you have any questions regarding these events. We look forward to seeing you there!

## COLD WEATHER RULE & ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NOTICE

*In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between October 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL of the following statements apply:*

- Your household income is at or below 50% of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by Agralite Electric Cooperative or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from Agralite Electric Cooperative.

### Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not completely stop winter disconnects

*Before disconnecting electric service to residential members between October 1 and April 30, Agralite Electric Cooperative must provide:*

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

### Energy Assistance Program

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 50% of the state median income (\$58,793 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2026.

*To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:*

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance.
- Agralite Electric Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact our billing department to set up a payment plan.

Prairie 5 CAC 320-269-7976 West Central CAC 800-492-4805  
Heartland CAC 320-235-0850

# SLOW DOWN

## IN WORK ZONES

APRIL 20-24  
IS NATIONAL  
WORK ZONE  
SAFETY WEEK



Every year, hundreds of workers and drivers are injured in work zone accidents. Here are some simple steps drivers can take to keep everyone safe.

- Slow down.
- Give workers extra room.
- Be prepared to stop.
- Be patient and expect delays.
- Avoid unnecessary lane changes.
- Keep your distance from other vehicles.
- Watch all areas around your vehicle for workers.
- Know before you go!  
Check [511mn.org](http://511mn.org) for road construction or closures.
- Avoid distractions such as eating, drinking, using a cellphone, radio, or GPS.

**Whether you're driving, walking, biking, or working near the road, remember that we all play a part in keeping everyone safe.**



## CURRENT AGRALITE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathy Draeger, Clinton  
District 1

Jeff Hufford, Morris  
District 2 - Secretary/Treasurer

Bennett Zierke, Hancock  
District 3

Steve Nelson, Starbuck  
District 4

Orvin Gronseth, Murdock  
District 5 - Vice President

Andrea Thomson, Benson  
District 6

Warren Rau, Appleton  
District 7 - President

## MINUTES OF MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

February 2026

Board Chairman Warren Rau called a meeting of the Board of Directors of Agralite Electric Cooperative to order at 8:30 a.m., February 26, 2026. All members of the Board were present. The agenda, minutes of the last meeting, the monthly disbursements, the payment of capital credits of deceased members, Work Order #595, Work Order #596, and January Special Equipment were approved.

Jonathan Messner, Manager of Member Services, reported on activities of his department for the month. He discussed load control for the month, and the polar vortex. He gave an update on the Briggs generator program. He showed pictures from Co-ops in the Classroom that was presented to Hancock 4th graders, and pictures from the Mini Sota Children's Museum.

Stephanie Wroblewski, Manager of Finance/CFO, reported on activities of her department for the month. She discussed margins for the month of January. She discussed patronage received and capital credits.

Aaron Clayton, CPA with Eide Bailly, joined the meeting via Zoom to present the 2025 Audit Report, and the Board approved it.

The financials were given by Stephanie with a PowerPoint presentation.

Jenny Stryhn reported on activities of the Engineering & Operations



# SPRING SAVINGS WORD SEARCH



Are you ready to *spring* into energy savings? When we actively try to reduce our energy use at home, we save on bills and help our community. Read the efficiency tips below, then search for (and circle) the **bolded** words in the puzzle.

### Spring Energy Tips:

**Unplug** chargers, gaming systems and other devices. Electronics can consume **energy** when they're plugged in, even if you're not using them.

Open curtains and blinds during the day to use **natural light** instead of lamps and other home lighting.

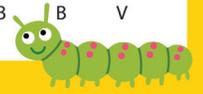
Dress for the weather. When it's chilly, grab a **jacket** instead of turning up the **thermostat**.

When it's warm, instead of turning on the A/C, open **windows** or turn on fans to circulate air.

Turn off **lights** when you're leaving the room for more than five minutes.



L	J	E	X	L	K	W	E	N	U	Y	Y	K	U	O
W	H	A	I	K	G	Q	O	B	Z	G	S	V	X	G
V	U	Q	C	U	X	B	K	P	M	R	O	T	E	Y
B	Y	Z	L	K	E	C	C	F	O	E	B	Y	L	N
U	M	P	K	X	E	O	N	X	W	N	Z	A	W	G
O	N	I	F	X	O	T	Y	M	D	E	I	W	I	J
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F	N	A	T	U	R	A	L	L	I	G	H	T	O	I
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L	W	I	Y	Z	U	N	Y	A	B	I	P	N	J	I
C	L	W	Q	Z	L	N	X	G	D	P	L	B	B	V



department for the month. She discussed line crew projects and outages for the month. She gave an update on the Hodges and Darnen substations. She brought forth 2026 Substation Maintenance contract, 2026 Pole Inspection contract, and 2026 Pad Mount Inspection contract with STAR Energy Service and the Board approved the contracts. She brought forth 2026 Underground Construction contract with Integrity Contracting and the Board approved the contract. She brought forth 2026 ROW Clearing contract and 2026 Foliar Spraying contract with Carr's Tree Service and the Board approved the contracts.

Jenny Stryhn gave the safety report.

Allen Schmitz, IT Manager with STAR Energy Services, joined the meeting to discuss

Cybersecurity proposals and the Board approved it.

Jenny Stryhn, General Manager/CEO, reviewed her report to the board. She discussed recent meetings she attended including the East River Managers Meeting, GRE Regional Meeting, GRE Managers Meeting, and the Basin Managers Meeting.

The Board reviewed the composition of the seven districts as per the Bylaws and declared them as equal. 1523401

A roundtable discussion was held discussing the East River Energize Forum.

The March board meeting was set for the 26th.

Being no further business came before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.