



Photo: Darin Ehrenberg, August Calendar Photo Contest Winner

NEWSLETTER

August 2026

Understanding Your Electric Bill *by Jenny Stryhn, General Manager*

August is typically one of the warmest months of the year, and that means air conditioners across our community are working overtime to keep homes comfortable. During periods of extreme heat, many members may see an increase in their electric bill and wonder what factors contribute to the cost of electricity. At Agralite Electric Cooperative, we believe understanding your electric bill is an important part of being an informed member. While the total amount due may seem like a single number, it actually reflects several different costs associated with delivering reliable electricity to your home or business.

The largest factor is often the amount of energy you use. Electricity is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh), and the more energy your household consumes, the higher your bill will be. During the summer, air conditioning is typically the largest driver of increased energy use. When temperatures climb into the 90s or higher, our cooling systems run longer and more frequently, consuming significantly more electricity than they do during milder weather.

Another major factor is the cost of generating or purchasing electricity. Like many cooperatives, Agralite Electric Cooperative purchases power from East River/Basin Electric, WAPA and Great River Energy. 1557000 The cost of producing electricity fluctuates based on fuel prices, including natural gas, coal and other energy resources used to generate power. Changes in wholesale power costs influence the price of electricity delivered to members. Transmission costs also play a role. Before electricity reaches your home, it must travel across a network of high-voltage transmission lines that connect power plants to local distribution systems. Transmission equipment requires ongoing maintenance and upgrades to ensure reliability, especially as electricity demand continues to grow.

Closer to home, Agralite Electric Cooperative maintains the local electric distribution system—utility poles, power lines, transformers, substations and other essential equipment that safely delivers power to members. Maintaining this equipment is covered through the monthly service charge. This is a flat monthly fee all members pay, regardless of how much electricity they use. This fixed fee ensures all members pay a fair share of the basic, operational costs required to keep the power grid reliable and ready to serve your home or business. Whether a member uses a little electricity or a lot, we must maintain infrastructure and have crews, equipment and resources available to provide electricity around the clock.

Summer temperatures can also influence costs in less obvious ways. When the demand for electricity is high across a region, wholesale power prices can increase. Utilities and grid operators must ensure enough generation is available to meet peak demand, and those costs can be reflected throughout the electric system. [Article continues on page 2](#)

EMPOWERING
communities

with innovative
and sustainable
energy solutions

FOR OVER
85
YEARS

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

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www.agralite.coop

 [Like us on Facebook](#)



Summer Office Hours:

7:00 AM – 3:30 PM

CLOSED Sept. 7th



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.

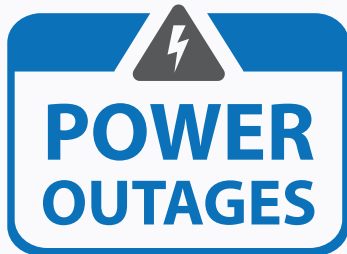
Congratulations

to Joyce Bowen & Todd Nelson for finding their account numbers in the June newsletter.

Energy Saving Tip:



August heat can put your air conditioner to the test, making it a great time to check your system's air filter. A dirty, clogged filter restricts air flow, forcing your cooling system to work harder than necessary to keep your home comfortable. That extra strain can reduce efficiency, increase energy use, and contribute to unnecessary wear and tear on equipment. Inspect your filter monthly during periods of heavy air conditioner use and replace it if it appears dirty. A clean air filter supports efficient operation and can even enhance indoor air quality, helping you stay cool and comfortable during the hottest days of the summer.



Call Day or Night
1.888.884.3887

Do not call the office for outages

August Energy Payment
is due September 20.*

*We accept Visa, Discover, and
Mastercard.

Understanding Your Electric Bill *Continued*

The good news is that simple steps to lower energy use can make a meaningful difference. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher when you're away, replacing dirty HVAC filters, using ceiling fans, sealing air leaks, participating in load management programs, and avoiding the use of major appliances during the hottest parts of the day can help reduce energy consumption, lower your bill and reduce strain on the local grid during peak demand.

Agralite Electric Cooperative's mission is to provide safe, reliable electricity while being transparent about the factors that impact energy costs. 1654300 We understand every dollar matters, and we are committed to making smart investments that keep the lights on and support the communities we serve.

If you ever have questions about your electric bill or co-op programs designed to help you save, please reach out. We're here to help you make informed decisions that work for your household. Thank you for allowing Agralite Electric Cooperative to serve you.

Energy Tour

Nineteen of Agralite's members, along with members from Meeker Cooperative, enjoyed a three-day luxury coach tour to North Dakota's coal country June 10-12.

This fun and educational trip included a tour of these facilities:

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



Voices for Cooperative Power

What is Voices for Cooperative Power?

Imagine if decisions that affect your family, your home, your wallet and your access to safe, reliable, affordable power were made without your input. That's what happens when we don't let policymakers know how their energy policy decisions affect our families and communities. 1682200 They need to understand the importance of making smart energy policies and they need to hear from us when they make misguided, one-size-fits-all policy decisions. Your voice is powerful and makes a difference.

How can you help keep the lights on?

Voices for Cooperative Power (VCP) is a grassroots network of over 1.1 million advocates who help shape energy policy that keeps the lights on. By getting involved in VCP, co-op consumer-members carry their voices to Washington, D.C., and beyond to help educate policymakers on the important role their co-op plays in providing safe, reliable, affordable power to 42 million Americans in 48 states.

Do you want to protect your community from a one-size-fits-all approach to energy policy? Join VCP today and make your voice heard!

Joining VCP helps:

- Shape policy decisions: By engaging in the policymaking process, you can help your co-op advocate for smart energy policy, continue to innovate for the future and keep the lights on at a cost you can afford.
- Protect co-op interests: VCP provides opportunities to share your story with policymakers, ensuring that the needs of your co-op and your family are front and center.
- Empower communities: Electric co-ops are essential to powering rural areas, and joining VCP allows you to have a say in the decisions that affect your access to safe, reliable, affordable power.

Now is the time to start getting engaged in the policymaking process. Join VCP to ensure that Agralite Electric Cooperative can continue to innovate and build a more reliable energy future for our community.

Learn more and get engaged at voicesforcooperative.com.

JOIN TODAY



Voices for Cooperative Power

United for Stronger Communities



SCAN ME TO LEARN MORE AND JOIN!

LOOKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND FOR YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE? THEN JOIN VCP!

VCP is a network of electric co-op members working together to influence public policy decisions that impact our co-ops and our way of life.

VOICESFORCOOPERATIVEPOWER.COM |     @VOICES4COOPS

Switch and Save

Save Time and Money with Auto Pay and Paperless Billing



How it works

Members who enroll in Auto Pay and/or Paperless Billing through SmartHub will receive a monthly bill credit of \$.50 for each program you enroll in. If you enroll in both, you will earn a \$1 monthly bill credit. Enrollees are entered into a yearly drawing for a Solo Stove.

Call 320-843-4150 with any questions or if you need help enrolling.

Visit www.agralite.coop and click on Pay Bill to get started!



Congratulations

to our Switch and Save winner, Allen Sondrol, for winning a Solo Stove!

Allen was the winner of our annual drawing for those members who are signed up for Auto Pay and/or Paperless Billing through SmartHub.

Enjoy your new Solo Stove!

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Strong passwords can help protect yourself from online scams. While many focus on complexity—adding symbols, numbers, and capital letters—password length is equally important. Longer passwords or passphrases are generally harder to crack than a short complex one. Consider using a memorable phrase made up of many unrelated words. Avoid using personal information like birthdays or pet names. Use a unique password for each account and enable multifactor authentication when possible.

Source: CISA





Agralite Supports The Stevens County Fair

Agralite Electric Cooperative has recently demonstrated its continued commitment to local community events with a generous donation to the Stevens County Fair.

The donation is designated to the fair's "Raise the Grandstand" project, supporting improvements to one of the fair's central gathering spaces. The contribution reflects Agralite's dedication to investing in local traditions and enhancing opportunities for residents to come together and celebrate.

Community fairs play an important role in bringing people together by showcasing local talent and supporting youth programs. Contributions like this help ensure the fair continues to provide a strong, vibrant experience for attendees of all ages.

Agralite remains a proud supporter of regional initiatives that can strengthen community connections and preserve local heritage.

Pictured is Jenny Stryhn, Agralite's CEO; Jordan Staples, SCF Project Lead; and Marissa Chevalier, Agralite's Executive Assistant



Youth Tour: A Cooperative Tradition, Nearly 70 Years Strong

Each summer, high school students from across the country travel to Washington, D.C., to see government in action and learn how their voices can shape the communities they call home. For nearly 70 years, the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has given students that opportunity, offering an up-close look at democracy, leadership and the cooperative model. The annual trip helps students better understand American government and the role electric cooperatives play in their communities, often inspiring them to become stronger civic and community leaders.

The Start of Youth Tour

The program began with a challenge. In 1957, at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual meeting in Chicago, then-Texas Senator Lyndon Johnson encouraged electric cooperatives to send young people to Washington so they could see firsthand what the flag represents. The next summer, 34 students from Iowa made the first trip. Other states soon followed, including Minnesota in 1966. Today, electric cooperatives in nearly every state send delegations to the capital each June. Nearly 100,000 students have participated over the years, including about three dozen from Minnesota each summer. Minnesota students now join roughly 1,800 peers from across the country for the annual Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Throughout the week, they take part in sessions on the cooperative model, American government and leadership development, while also hearing from inspirational speakers.

A Lasting Impact

Students describe Youth Tour as a memorable and meaningful trip of a lifetime. Some return home inspired to pursue public service, while others apply what they learned by becoming stronger leaders and more engaged community members. Over time, some Youth Tour alumni even reconnect with their local electric cooperatives as employees, board members or engaged member-owners. [Article continues on page 5](#)



Youth Tour: A Cooperative Tradition, Nearly 70 Years Strong *Continued*

Electric cooperatives took shape in the 1930s because many rural communities had been left without service. When investor-owned utilities chose not to extend power to rural America, farmers and neighbors organized, pooled their resources and built the lines themselves. That same spirit of local action continues to define cooperatives today.

Cooperatives are owned by the members they serve and led by boards elected from within those communities. Programs like Youth Tour reflect the same commitment to local engagement and democratic participation that has kept the cooperative model strong for nearly a century. Each June, the students who travel to the nation's capital serve as an annual reminder of what sets cooperatives apart.

"I am beyond grateful for the opportunity that Agralite Electric Cooperative gave me to experience the incredible trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C. Alongside 35 other students, I had the privilege of learning firsthand about our nation's government, meeting political leaders, and gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges our country faces today and the solutions being discussed. This experience opened my eyes to the importance of civic engagement and showed me how government decisions impact communities across the nation. It also gave us small towns a chance to speak up for what is needed around our areas. It truly was an unforgettable opportunity that expanded my knowledge far beyond what I could have learned in a classroom.

This trip has had a lasting impact on my life, both as a leader and as an individual. 1760900 It strengthened my confidence, broadened my perspective, and gave me a renewed passion for serving others and becoming more involved in my community. I returned home with a second perspective on leadership, responsibility, the value of listening to people with different viewpoints and a second family. I cannot emphasize enough on how much these other delegates impacted me as a person. I have created friendships that you would have thought we've known each other for years and the chaperones on this trip are some of my biggest mentors now. From the start I thought since I didn't know anyone I would be homesick after a couple days but from the very moment I stepped into orientation I knew that this would be the best trip ever.

And it was! I strongly believe Agralite Electric Cooperative should continue sponsoring this opportunity for future students. This experience is truly changing the hearts and lives of young people across the nation and inspiring the next generation of leaders to make a difference in their communities and beyond. Thank you again for this incredible opportunity! This trip and your support will never be forgotten."



Brooklyn Koehntop



Agralite Was Selected To Receive The MN Governor's Workplace Safety Award!

In 2025, Agralite Electric Cooperative demonstrated exceptional dedication to workplace injury prevention—above the 50th percentile for both the state and national average for our industry. Our focus in this area won us the Silver Achievement Award.

Agralite Electric Cooperative

2027 Calendar Photo Contest

Back By Popular Demand!

Agralite is seeking local photographs for our 2027 calendar contest. Photos should be of a landscape, natural element, or interesting view from within the Agralite service territory. We want you to share the diversity and wonder of our local landscape.

Photo entries are limited to Agralite members and must be submitted by October 2nd, 2026.

Digital photos only. You must specify the subject of the photo and where it was taken. Please include your contact information, account number, phone number, and address in your submission.

Selected photos will receive a \$15 bill credit. Cover photo will receive a \$30 bill credit. Voting will be done on Agralite's Facebook page in October. Please limit 5 photo submissions per member - 1 winning photo per member.

Submit Your Photos To:
mchevalier@agralite.com

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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 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.

CURRENT AGRALITE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathy Draeger, Clinton
District 1

Jeff Hufford, Morris
District 2 - Secretary / Treasurer

Bennett Zierke, Hancock
District 3 - Vice President

Steve Nelson, Starbuck
District 4

Dave Barrett, Murdock
District 5

Clay Molden, Danvers
District 6

Warren Rau, Appleton
District 7 - President

MINUTES OF MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 2026

Board Chairman Warren Rau called a meeting of the Board of Directors of Agralite Electric Cooperative to order at 8:30 a.m., June 25, 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 #601, and May Special Equipment were approved.

Allen Schmitz, IT Manager at STAR Energy Services LLC, joined the meeting to give a quarterly cybersecurity report.

Jonathan Messner, Manager of Member Services, reported on activities of his department for the month. He discussed load control for the month. He discussed the recent North Dakota Energy Tour. He gave an update on the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) pilot project and a lengthy discussion was held. He stated that Jack Hoeke, Agralite's electrician, has announced his retirement and the open position has been posted.

Stephanie Wroblewski, Manager of Finance/CFO, reported on activities of her department for the month. She discussed margins for the month of May. She discussed patronage received. She stated that a temporary CSR, Kylie Oscarson, has been hired through the end of December.

The financials were given by Stephanie with a PowerPoint presentation.

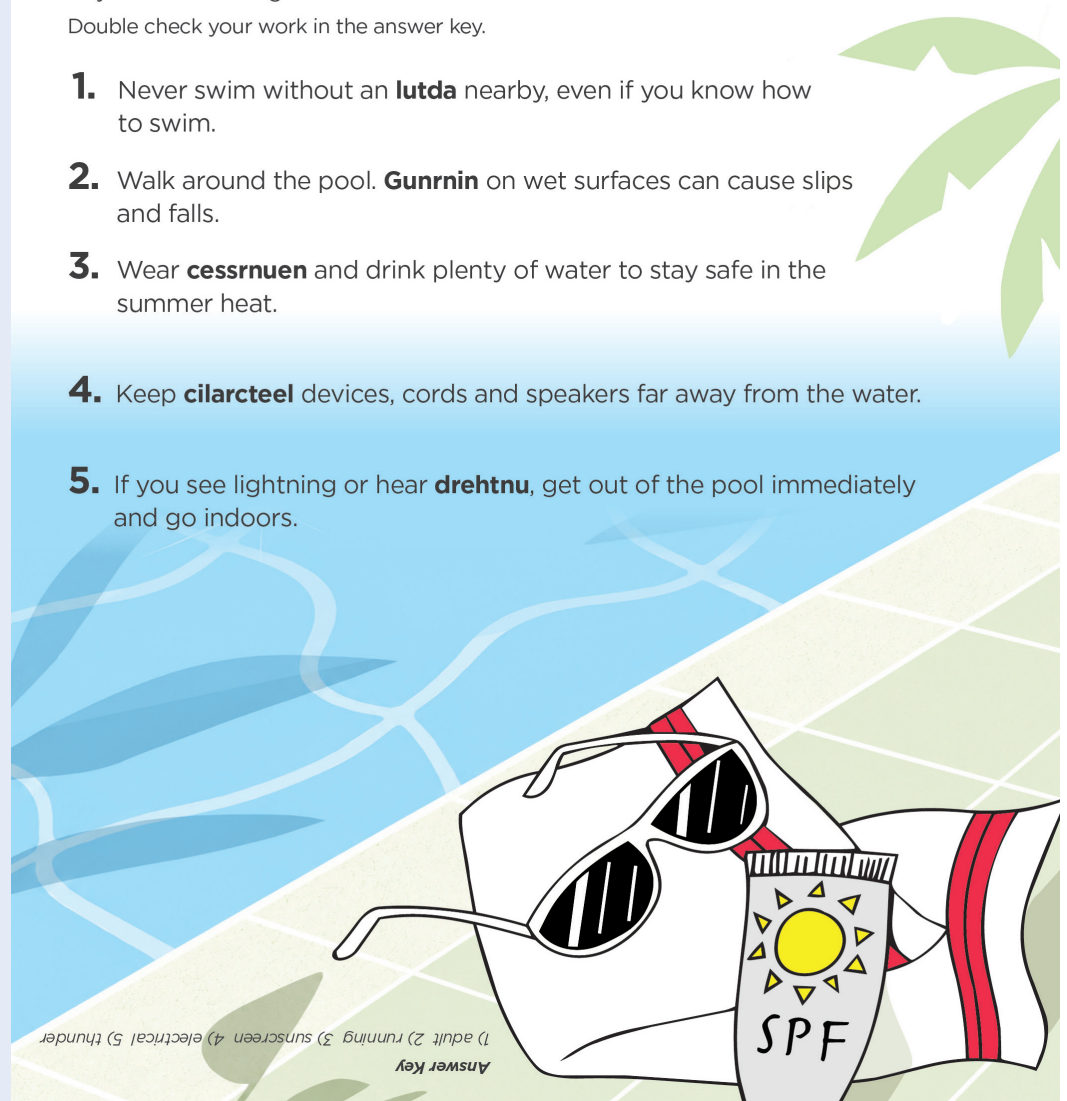
Tom Hoffman, Manager of Engineering & Operations, reported on activities of his department for the month. He

SWIMMING POOL SAFETY WORD SCRAMBLE

Dive into this word scramble challenge! Read the pool safety tips below to uncover the scrambled words. Remember these tips to stay safe while having fun in the sun.

Double check your work in the answer key.

1. Never swim without an **lutda** nearby, even if you know how to swim.
2. Walk around the pool. **Gunnrin** on wet surfaces can cause slips and falls.
3. Wear **cessrnuen** and drink plenty of water to stay safe in the summer heat.
4. Keep **cilarcteel** devices, cords and speakers far away from the water.
5. If you see lightning or hear **drehtnu**, get out of the pool immediately and go indoors.



discussed line crew projects and outages for the month. He gave an update on the Stevens Milk Plant. He gave an update on the after-hours dispatch switch to SRS. He showed a PowerPoint presentation of the outages caused by storms on June 10th, and the GRE transmission outages on June 12th.

Tom gave the safety report.

Marissa Chevalier, Agralite's Executive Assistant, gave a PowerPoint presentation on MREA advocacy efforts and REPAC.

Jenny brought forth a resolution authorizing the application for the Rural Economic Development Loan for DENCO, LLC, 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, Basin Managers Meeting, and the GRE Managers Meeting. She discussed the WAPA Drought Adder.

A request for donation to the MREA Burn Center Golf Tournament Fundraiser was discussed and the Board approved a donation of \$500.

A roundtable discussion was held. Director Rau invited the two new directors to ask any questions they may have. Director Rau discussed MREA strategic planning. Jenny brought forth RESCO 2026 Board Election Ballot and the Board voted to vote for Adam Tromblay.

The July board meeting was set for the 30th. Being no further business came before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.