



Photo: Karen Janachovsky, December Calendar Photo Contest Winner

NEWSLETTER

December 2025

Reflecting On Progress, Planning For The Future *by Jenny Stryhn, General Manager*

As we close another year, I want to pause and express gratitude—for you, the members of Agralite Electric Cooperative, and your continued trust and support. Our cooperative was built on the promise of people coming together to improve the quality of life in their communities, and that promise still guides everything we do today.

Each decision, whether it's about delivering reliable electricity, innovating for the future or advocating for smart energy policies that impact our local community, comes back to one simple question: How will this benefit the members we serve?

This past year has been marked by meaningful progress, both in strengthening our local system and in working at the national level to influence energy policies that directly affect reliability, affordability, and resilience. While the details of federal regulations can feel distant, they shape our daily operations here at home.

Over the past year, electric cooperatives across the country came together for advocacy efforts on the EPA's Power Plant Rule. 628601 As originally written, the rule would have forced a rapid shift away from always-available power generation resources, threatening the accessibility of a diverse fuel supply that keeps electricity reliable.

Renewable energy sources are an essential and growing part of our energy future, but we also know that the demand for electricity is rising rapidly, and natural gas, coal, and nuclear remain essential for ensuring power is available around the clock. As we collaborated and engaged with policymakers, we pressed for a more balanced approach to generating power—one that supports clean energy innovation while still recognizing the role of traditional resources.

Our efforts are helping to shape a more workable path forward that better protects reliability and keeps costs in check for Agralite Electric Cooperative members. Another area of ongoing progress came through advocacy work on federal permitting reform.

Article continues on page 2



Happy Holidays!
MAY YOUR SEASON BE MERRY & BRIGHT

Mark your calendars!

JOIN US FOR
Cider & Cookies
December 18 & 19



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



Office Hours:

8:00AM – 4:30PM

Cider & Cookies - Dec. 18th & 19th

Closed - Dec. 24th & 25th

Closed - Jan. 1st

Pickup A 2026 Calendar!



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 Michael Stahn for finding his account number in the October newsletter.

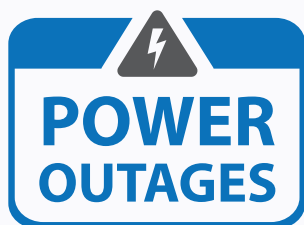
Energy Saving Tip:



To maximize your fireplace's efficiency, always keep the damper closed when the fireplace is not in use. 833300

An open damper is like an open window, allowing warm indoor air to escape and cold air to enter. Consider installing a fireplace insert, which improves heat output by circulating warm air into the room rather than letting it escape up the chimney. Also, burn only seasoned hardwood to ensure a hotter, cleaner burn. Regularly clean and inspect your chimney to maintain safe and efficient operation.

Source: energy.gov



Call Day or Night
1.888.884.3887

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

December Energy Payment
is due January 20*.

*We accept Visa, Discover, and Mastercard.

Reflecting On Progress, Planning For The Future *Continued*

For too long, outdated rules and lengthy delays have stood in the way of building critical infrastructure, including new transmission lines and generation projects. Modernizing this process is essential if we are going to strengthen the electric grid and keep pace with growing demand. This year, electric co-ops helped move the needle on permitting reform, advocating for policies that make the process faster, more predictable, and more efficient. Investments we make in infrastructure will reach communities sooner, improving reliability and preparing us for the future.






We're also seeing progress with bipartisan support of the FEMA Act of 2025, which would speed up the disaster recovery process for electric cooperatives and the communities they serve. Severe storms are a fact of life, and their impact on the electrical system can be devastating. The severe weather experienced in May of 2022 caused damage that affected the majority of Agralite Electric Cooperative's service territory.

FEMA is a crucial partner for electric co-ops in efforts to restore power after a disaster strikes, but currently, the federal reimbursement process after a major storm is slow and full of red tape. If passed, the bill would make FEMA a stronger, more responsive agency to help strengthen rural resilience, protect taxpayer dollars, and ensure essential services are restored as quickly as possible after a natural disaster. Achievements like these are not just wins in Washington—they are wins for Agralite Electric Cooperative members like you.

In addition to advocacy efforts, we are proactively addressing our communities' future needs by investing in new technologies and programs that improve service for our members. Through advanced monitoring systems and tools that improve daily operations, we are better equipped to identify power delivery issues or challenges before they occur. As we look ahead to a new year, I see both challenges and opportunities on the horizon. The energy industry is undergoing significant change driven by the rising need for more electricity, new tools and technologies, and federal energy policies.

The path forward requires innovative thinking and member-focused solutions. With the dedication of Agralite Electric Cooperative employees and the continued support of our members, I'm confident that we are well-positioned to adapt and meet challenges head-on. Through it all, our promise to you remains steadfast: reliable power for today—and tomorrow.

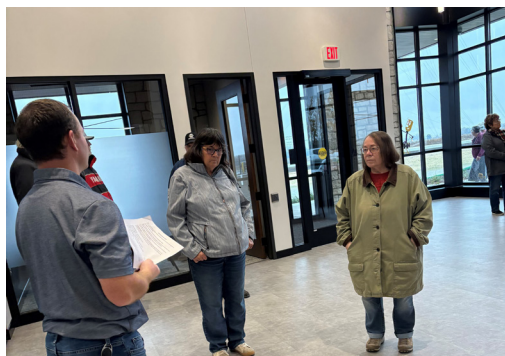
As we wrap up 2025, from all of us at Agralite Electric Cooperative, we hope your holiday season is merry and bright. Don't forget to join us for cider and cookies at the cooperative on December 18th and 19th and pick up your 2026 Agralite calendar featuring member photos. Thank you for your continued interest in your electric cooperative and the opportunity to serve you!

Purchasing Appliances And Electronics: Best Times To Buy	
Product Type	Best Time to Buy for Discounts
 Refrigerators and Freezers	Late winter to early spring (March/April); New models arrive in spring, and older models are discounted; Holiday sales (Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day).
 Washers/Dryers, Dishwashers, Ovens and Ranges	September and October when new models are released and older models are discounted; Holiday sales (Labor Day, Black Friday, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day); End-of-year clearance.
 Large Home Electronics (TVs, home theater)	Holiday sales (Black Friday and Cyber Monday); Amazon Prime Days; Late fall/early winter; Other promos, like Super Bowl sales for televisions.
 Smart Assistants and Other Smart Devices	Holiday sales (Black Friday, Cyber Monday); Other sales events, like Amazon Prime Days.
 Air Conditioners, Heaters and Other Seasonal Appliances	Off season (purchase AC units in fall or winter, heaters in summer); Retailers offer bigger discounts when demand is low.



Celebrating Our New Headquarters Facility

Thank you to the 325 members and guests who joined us at our new headquarters facility open house on October 28th! Members and guests who attended the event toured the new space, learned more about the construction process, and enjoyed a lunch grilled by Irby, one of our electric supply vendors. We hope you enjoyed seeing the new facility firsthand!



TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Look out for the “energy saving device” scam. Whether sold on social media platforms or through random emails, consumers have fallen victim to scams where these products claim to reduce or even eliminate energy bills.

These products are advertised as devices that will balance or clean the power in your home, thus saving you money.

There is no such device that can simply be plugged in to lower energy use.



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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.

Can I Get By With Electric Space Heaters?

Even though ASHPs and portable space heaters both run on electricity, their efficiency and overall cost to operate are vastly different. While it may be tempting to plug in a few space heaters throughout your home as an alternative, this short-term solution can lead to long-term costs.

A single space heater running for 8 hours a day at \$0.14 per kilowatt-hour would cost upwards of \$50 per day—and that's just for one room. Multiply that by several rooms or longer hours, and it can quickly rival or exceed the cost of using a whole-home ASHP system.



Heat Your Home Efficiently And Cost-Effectively This Winter

As the cooler air returns for another season, members may find themselves considering how to efficiently and cost-effectively heat their home throughout another Minnesota winter.

Advances in electric heating technology, particularly air source heat pumps (ASHP), are helping to make electricity the go-to choice. They perform well in cold climates and have quickly become cost competitive with conventional furnaces—even beating them in upfront costs when coupled with federal, state, and local utility incentives.

ASHPs are three to five times more efficient than most traditional heating systems because it takes less energy to move heat around than to produce it. With a natural gas furnace, heat must first be created by burning gas and then additional energy distributes it throughout your home.

With an ASHP, the heat energy itself is taken from the air outside (even when temperatures drop well below freezing), meaning energy is only needed to transport and distribute that heat indoors. As a result, ASHPs are often far less expensive to run than other heating systems, translating to hundreds of dollars in annual savings for an average household.

While the annual expected cost of heating a home with a natural gas furnace can be slightly cheaper in some areas, ASHPs are far more affordable than propane. Members could expect to save \$600 annually to deliver the same amount of heat by switching from a propane furnace or boiler to an ASHP. 1748800 You'll also no longer be subject to the price volatility of oil, propane, and gas. Factor in available federal tax credits (30%, up to \$2,000 when installed before Dec. 31, 2025) and rebates from your local electric cooperative, in addition to ASHPs offering the dual benefit of providing a home's cooling needs, and it becomes an even more appealing investment.

Contact Agralite Electric Cooperative at 320-843-4150 to learn how much you can save on an ASHP, as well as other residential energy efficiency rebates offered to members.

What To Do When You Lose Power

Power outages can strike without warning, whether caused by severe weather, equipment failure, or scheduled maintenance. In those first few moments, knowing what to do can help you stay safe and avoid unnecessary stress.

Before calling Agralite Electric Cooperative, the very first thing you should do is check your breaker box. A tripped breaker is one of the most common reasons for losing power in just part of your home or apartment.

To check your breakers, open the panel and look for any switches that are out of alignment — either fully off or stuck between on and off. Flip the switch completely off, then back on. This simple reset can often restore power immediately.

How To Check & Reset Electrical Breakers



Locate your breaker panel.

Find the electrical panel in a basement, garage or utility room.



Identify the tripped breaker.

Look for the red switch that is in the middle or the "off" position, or shows a red/orange indicator.



Reset the breaker safely.

Firmly switch the tripped breaker to the "off" position then "on".



Check for reoccurring issues.

If it trips again, unplug devices and call a qualified electrician.

What To Do When You Lose Power *Continued*

In single-family homes, breaker boxes are usually in the basement, garage, or utility room, or sometimes mounted on an exterior wall. In apartments or condos, they're often tucked inside a hallway closet or laundry area. If you're unsure where yours is, your building manager or maintenance team can help you locate it.

If your breaker box looks fine and power is still out, it's time to check with your neighbors to see if they're affected. If they are, report the outage to Agralite Electric Cooperative. While waiting for updates, unplug sensitive electronics to protect them from power surges when electricity returns. Use flashlights instead of candles to reduce fire risk. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed to preserve food. Being prepared for outages is just as important as knowing what to do when they happen. Keep a flashlight, extra batteries, and a portable phone charger in an easy-to-reach spot. A battery-powered radio can help you stay informed during extended outages, and having your electric cooperative's contact information or app handy will make reporting issues faster and easier.

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



2026 Basin Scholarship

Qualify? Please Apply!

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, a wholesale power supplier to Agralite, is again offering this generous scholarship. 1678900 Basin Electric's scholarship program began in 1990. Each year, Agralite solicits scholarship applications throughout our service area.

How Much Is The Scholarship?

The Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) Scholarship Program will award more than 180 scholarships. Agralite will award one \$1,000 scholarship. The scholarship must be used for educational costs, and the student must enter college in the fall of the school year for which the scholarship is given. Checks will be made payable to the school, and will be distributed to the school by BEPC. Scholarships will be distributed in August.

Who Is Eligible To Receive The Scholarship?

Dependent children (including adopted or step-children) of member-system consumers and dependent children of member-cooperative employees are eligible. The applicant must also be a U.S. citizen and enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic record, potential to succeed, leadership, and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals, and an outside appraisal.

How Do I Apply?

Obtain forms and applications from your school counselor, the Agralite Electric Cooperative office, or www.agralite.coop.

The completed application and all other necessary information must be returned to Agralite Electric Cooperative:

No later than February 20, 2026.

CURRENT AGRALITE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

October 2025

Board Chairman Warren Rau called a meeting of the Board of Directors of Agralite Electric Cooperative to order at 8:30 a.m., on October 30, 2025. All members of the Board were present, with Director Draeger joining by Zoom. The agenda, minutes of the last meeting, the monthly disbursements, the payment of capital credits of deceased members, Work Order #587, Work Order #588, and September 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. He discussed the building project and open house, changes to C-MIP reporting, and gave an update on the battery storage pilot project.

Stephanie Wroblewski, Manager of Finance/CFO, reported on activities of her department for the month. She discussed margins for the month of September. She discussed patronage received from CRC, and the Cold Weather Rule and government shutdown.

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 discussed line crew projects and outages for the month. He discussed the electrical

HOLIDAY EFFICIENCY WORD SEARCH

The holidays are a fun, festive time of year! But this is also a time when we typically use more electricity at home because the weather is colder and we're home for the holiday season.

Read the efficiency tips below, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.

Holiday Efficiency Tips:

Decorate your tree with energy-saving **LED lights**.

Save energy by using a **timer** to turn off holiday lights when you're sleeping.

If you have a **fireplace** in your home, remind an adult to close the **dampener** when a fire is not burning.

Open blinds and curtains during the day to let **sunlight** in to warm your home.

Lower the **thermostat** when you invite friends or family over.

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

safety demonstrations for 5th and 6th graders at Hancock Public School. He gave an update on the Hodges and Darnen substations.

Tom gave the safety report.

Alison Deelstra, CFC Regional Vice President, joined the meeting to present the 2024 Key Ratio Trend Analysis review.

The 2026 preliminary budgets were discussed by the department managers. The November 2026 board meeting was set for November 20th, 2026.

Jenny Stryhn, General Manager/CEO, reviewed her report to the board. She discussed the new headquarters facility and upcoming open house. She discussed recent meetings she attended including the East River REED

and Managers Meeting and GRE Managers Meeting. She discussed Mid-West Electric Consumers Association administration updates and meetings with CVEC.

The 2026 Basin Load Forecast was discussed and approved.

The Cooperative Family Fund was discussed and a \$1,000 donation was approved.

The November board meeting was set for the 26th.

An Executive Session was held.

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