



Photo: Janice Nohl, July Calendar Photo Contest Winner

NEWSLETTER

July 2026

EMPOWERING
communities

with innovative
and sustainable
energy solutions

FOR OVER
85
YEARS

Agralite Electric Cooperative Celebrates 87 Years *by Jenny Stryhn, General Manager*

Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Meeting at the end of May. We appreciate the strong turnout and opportunity to connect with our members. As a cooperative, your participation and engagement help guide our future and strengthen our community. Thank you for your continued support and trust. We are proud to serve you and look forward to the year ahead.



Annual Meeting Recap

Agralite Electric Cooperative held its 87th Annual Meeting on May 27, 2026, at the Benson High School. A steak supper was grilled by the West Central Cattleman's Association, followed by the Business Meeting.



The Board President, Warren Rau, gave his report, followed by the financial report presented by Agralite's CFO, Stephanie Wroblewski. She reported that the Cooperative's financial position remains strong, with net margins of \$1,986,206 for 2025.

Agralite's CEO, Jenny Stryhn, presented her report, which covered several topics including an update on the new headquarters facility, electricity generation and infrastructure, and increasing power costs. [Article continues on page 2](#)

CONTENTS

PAGE 1 ▶ Agralite Electric Cooperative Celebrates 87 Years, Annual Meeting Recap

PAGE 2 ▶ Annual Meeting Recap, Cont., Orvin Gronseth, Find Your Account Number And Win, Energy Saving Tip

PAGE 3 ▶ Congratulations 2026 Scholarship Recipients, Same Energy. Different Impact., Agralite's 2027 Calendar Photo Contest

PAGE 4 ▶ I Hit A Power Pole Or Other Electrical Equipment: Now What?, Service Anniversaries

PAGE 5 ▶ I Hit A Power Pole Or Other Electrical Equipment: Now What?, Cont., 2026 Farmfest Prizes And Coupon, Tips To Avoid Energy Scams

PAGE 6 ▶ Board Meeting Minutes, Fill-In-The-Blank Activity

Agralite Electric Co-op

We're member-owned!

320 US-12, Benson, MN
(320) 843-4150
1-800-950-8375
www.agralite.coop

 Like us on Facebook



Summer Office Hours:

7:00 AM – 3:30 PM



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

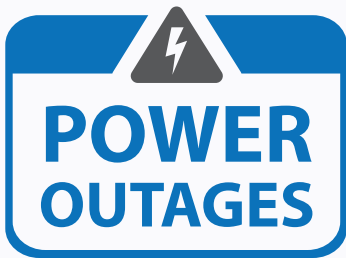
to Justin Howe for finding his account number in the May newsletter.

Energy Saving Tip:



Running multiple major appliances at the same time—like your dishwasher and laundry machines, can strain the electric grid, especially during peak hours (typically late afternoon to early evening).

Instead of stacking appliance use, spread it out throughout the day or shift chores to off-peak hours when energy demand is lower. This not only helps improve overall efficiency, but can also reduce your energy costs. A simple habit change, like doing laundry in the morning and running the dishwasher overnight, can make a meaningful difference for both your wallet and energy reliability.



Call Day or Night 1.888.884.3887

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

July Energy Payment is due August 20.*

*We accept Visa, Discover, and Mastercard.

Annual Meeting Recap *Continued*

She introduced Agralite's 2025 Youth Tour Delegate, Charlie Molenaar, who gave a report on his experience in Washington, D.C. Following that, the 2026 scholarship recipients introduced themselves.



Director seats in Districts 5, 6, and 7 were up for election. Two new directors were elected to the board. Dave Barrett was elected to represent District 5, and Clay Molden was elected to represent District 6. Incumbent Warren Rau was re-elected to represent District 7.



Dave Barrett, District 5



Clay Molden, District 6



Warren Rau, District 7

The meeting concluded with a door prize drawing for bill credits.

Orvin Gronseth

We regret to inform our members that Orvin Gronseth passed away on May 14th.

Over the years, Orvin served as a leader in the community. He served on the Board of Directors for the Agralite Electric Cooperative in Benson for 33 years. He loved the outdoors and worked to care for the land for future generations as he served 40 years on the Swift County Soil & Water Conservation District Board. He served on the Kerkhoven Township Board for many years and the church council of Hope Lutheran Church in Sunburg. He designed the chapel at the Spring Creek Lutheran Cemetery. He was proud to serve on the board of three non-profit organizations, including the Benson American Legion Post, the Benson Historical Society, and the Sunburg Trolls Car Club. He had a passion for history and educating the next generation. Orvin will be missed by many.



Congratulations 2026 Scholarship Recipients



Lucas Klepel
Ortonville High School
\$2,000 Lineman Scholarship



Hayley McNeill
Morris High School
\$2,500 Basin Scholarship



Zach Wrobleksi
Benson High School
\$2,000 Lineman Scholarship



Brooke Hoberg
Benson High School
\$2,000 Scholarship



Dylan Sanders
Benson High School
\$2,000 Electrician Scholarship



Keala Carroll
Benson High School
\$2,000 Scholarship



Sarah Neu
Ortonville High School
\$2,000 Scholarship



Alex Anderson
Chokio-Alberta High School
\$2,000 Scholarship



Madelynn Luft
Augustana University
\$2,000 Scholarship

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. 1578602 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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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.

Same Energy. Different Impact.

The demand for electricity is typically highest in the late afternoon during peak energy hours. You can help lower demand by shifting when energy-intensive activities happen.



Shift appliance use to off-peak hours.

- Run the dishwasher before you go to bed.
- Use the oven earlier or later (during off-peak hours.)
- Space out use of major appliances.



Use a programmable or smart thermostat.

- Automatically adjust the temp setting during peak hours.
- Schedule home cooling cycles for efficiency.



Opt for low-energy alternatives during peak hours.

- Use small appliances like slow cookers or air fryers—or fire up the grill—instead of the oven.
- Air-dry clothes instead of using the dryer.
- Use ceiling fans for additional cooling.

ANNIVERSARIES

Tom Hoffman



35
YEARS

Manager of Engineering
& Operations

Mike Haas



20
YEARS

Lead Lineman

Steve Birhanzl



15
YEARS

Warehouseman

Theresa Klassen



5
YEARS

Senior Accountant

Thank you for your years of
dedication and hard work!

I Hit A Power Pole Or Other Electrical Equipment: Now What?

We all think it will never happen to us, but it can, and in an instant.

Drivers and cars can veer off the road and run into power poles or electrical boxes. Farmers can sometimes come into contact with a power line or an electrical box while driving tractors or other machinery. Dump or feed truck drivers can snag a power line while raising or lowering their bed.

People can become dangerously close or enter electricity's path. **Knowing what to do in that situation can save your life.** Incidents with power lines or other utility equipment break the electrical current's usual path. This can make the ground, vehicles and other equipment electrified.

If you hit a power pole, pad-mounted transformer ("green box") or other electrical equipment with your car or vehicle, **DO NOT** get out. 1074600 Instead, call 9-1-1 and wait for utility crews to come and de-energize power.

Here are some examples; in all instances, call 9-1-1:

- Your tractor or car **strikes a guy wire** (guy wires are the wires staked into the ground that stabilize utility poles). Under normal conditions, the guy wire is neutral, but if the wire is weakened, pulled out of the ground or otherwise damaged, it could become energized.
- You hit a patch of ice and go off the road and **hit a utility pole**. Or you are in a car accident and **one of the vehicles strikes a power pole**. Only get out of the car if there is smoke or a fire; otherwise, stay put. If there is a fire, make a clean jump or hop from your car or truck (without touching it), and hop with your feet together or shuffle keeping your feet on the ground at least 50 feet to safety. Think of the downed line sending electrical current across the ground in a ripple-like effect. Each ring of the ripple represents a different voltage. If you step from one ring to another, **this is called step potential** and it can electrocute you.
- You see an accident that involves **a downed power line**. **DO NOT** approach the scene.
- You hit a **pad-mounted transformer** or other type of **electrical box**.
- Your vehicle hits a **substation**.
- You ran off the road, hit a pole and it's dark out, but **YOU DON'T KNOW** if lines are down.

Article continues on page 5



I Hit A Power Pole Or Other Electrical Equipment: Now What? *Continued*

Other situations:

- You get something stuck in power lines (drone or remote-control device):
Do not try to retrieve it.
- You see kids climbing or sitting on pad-mounted transformers:
Tell them not to sit or play on it.
- You are carrying a tall ladder or pole:
Look up for power line locations and keep at least a 10-foot clearance at all times.
- You see kids climb trees that have power lines above:
Warn them not to climb trees near power lines.
- You are using a portable generator: Never plug it into a wall outlet. This can cause backfeeding into the line and be deadly to lineworkers and neighbors.

For questions about any of these scenarios, call Agralite at 320-843-4150.

For more information about electrical safety, visit safeelectricity.org.

2026 FARMFEST PRIZES EGO ELECTRIC YARD TOOLS



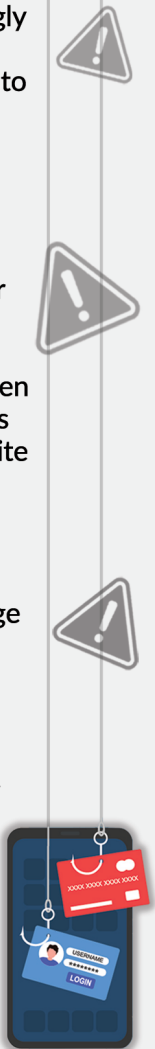
TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Scammers are increasingly using “smishing” or fake text messages designed to look like they’re from legitimate businesses, including your electric utility.

These texts may claim your bill is overdue, your service will be disconnected, or you’re owed a refund. They often include a link that directs you to a fake payment site or asks for personal information. Never click on suspicious links or respond to unexpected texts, even if the message seems urgent.

Instead, log in to your utility account through the official website or mobile app to verify any claims. We will never ask for sensitive information like passwords or banking details through text messages.



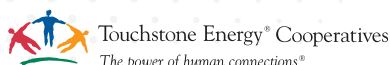
2026 FARMFEST Cut out and bring this coupon to Farmfest for a chance to win a grand prize featuring EGO electric yard tools.



FARMFEST 2026

AUGUST 4-6

28366 COUNTY HWY 13
MORGAN, MN (GILFILLAN)



MEMBER INFO:

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

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

May 2026

Board Chairman Warren Rau called a meeting of the Board of Directors of Agralite Electric Cooperative to order at 8:55 a.m., May 28, 2026 after the reorganization meeting. 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 #600, and April Special Equipment were approved.

The two newly elected Board Directors introduced themselves to Board and Staff. David Barrett from District 5 and Clay Molden from District 6.

Jonathan Messner, Manager of Member Services, reported on activities of his department for the month. He discussed load control for the month. He brought forth a donation request from the Stevens County Fair for their Raise the Grandstand project. A discussion was held and the Board approved a donation of \$2,000 from the REDLG administrative fee funds for the project and to apply for matching funds from CoBank's Sharing Success fund. He discussed upcoming community events that Agralite will be participating in.

Stephanie Wroblewski, Manager of Finance/CFO, reported on activities of her department for the month. She discussed margins for the month of April. She discussed the 2026 Capital Credit payout that was processed and stated that checks were mailed out at the end of May. She gave an update on the temporary CSR hiring process and the Switch and Save program.

The financials were given by Stephanie with a PowerPoint presentation.

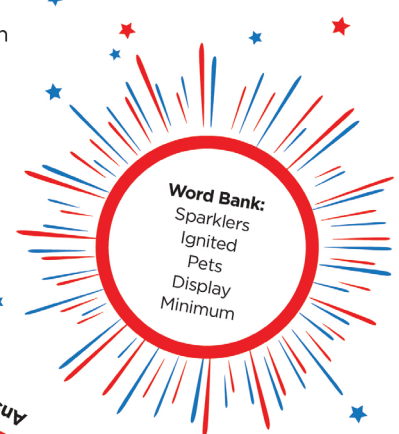
Fill-in-the-Blank: Fireworks Safety Tips

Holidays like the Fourth of July and other celebrations can be fun times with great memories. But everyone should practice safety near fireworks. Read the safety tips below, then fill in the blanks with the correct answer in the word bank.

1. The best way to stay safe is to never use fireworks at home. Instead, attend a public _____ and leave fireworks to the pros.
2. Watch fireworks from a _____ of 500 feet away from where they are launched.
3. Never touch or pick up pieces of fireworks or duds as they may still be _____ or could explode at any time.
4. Remember, _____ are not toys and can reach 2,000 degrees F. Use glow sticks instead.
5. Think about _____ when fireworks are nearby. It's best to leave them indoors to reduce the risk of them running away or being injured.



Answer Key: 1) display 2) minimum 3) Ignited 4) Sparklers 5) Pets



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 gave an update on the Stevens Milk Plant. He gave an update on the afterhours dispatch switch to SRS. He discussed spring system damage involving farm equipment and showed a map of where the damages occurred.

Tom gave the safety report. He stated that Agralite received the Silver Governor's Workplace Safety Award for 2025. 1001800

Jenny Stryhn, General Manager/CEO, reviewed her report to the board. She discussed the Annual Meeting that was held the previous day. She stated that Orvin Gronseth, longtime board member, passed away May 14th. She discussed recent meetings she attended including the East River Managers Meeting and REED meeting, Basin IRP planning meeting, and the

GRE Mangers Meeting. She gave a PowerPoint presentation on STAR Energy Services Financial Report. She gave a PowerPoint presentation on Transmission Extension options with GRE. A lengthy discussion was held. The Board voted to accept GRE's offer of the TSC Amendment, to vote in favor of Amended PPC Appendix and Amended TSC Appendix B.

The East River 2026 Resolutions and Bylaws Committee board seat was discussed and Director Hufford was elected.

The 2026 Official Ballot of Federated Telephone was discussed and the Board voted in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bylaws.

The June board meeting was set for the 25th.

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