

Connections

Vol. 15, No. 2



Energy efficiency tax credits drop, but don't vanish



'Moo're members are missing! Help your co-op find them!

Some co-op members became lost in space without leaving forwarding addresses. Help them gain the rewards of co-op patronage. (See Pages 2-3).

It is important that your electric co-op locate these missing members. Since we no longer have their current address, their capital credits check was returned — address unknown. If you know the location for any of these members, call or e-mail the appropriate co-op with the member's current address. They'll say "Cowabunga!" over getting their check!

Unclaimed capital credits checks are donated to a tax-exempt organization. Brown County REA and Federated Rural Electric give unclaimed capital credits to their Operation Round Up program. Brown's Round Up Trust Board donates to programs that benefit their rural residents and local communities. Federated's Round Up Trust Board awards high school scholarships. South Central Electric donates funds to local fire departments and rescue squads. ♻️

Energy-efficiency improvements are great for lowering electric bills. Yet, sometimes the up-front cost can be a drawback.

Since 2005, Congress has enacted a series of tax breaks for consumers who take steps to make their homes more energy efficient. In December, the outgoing 111th Congress approved extending some popular efficiency tax credits through December 31, 2011, although at greatly reduced levels.

"While we were hopeful that the tax credits would be higher than what was approved, we are encouraged that this valuable incentive for homeowner investment was retained," said the co-op's energy expert.

The federal Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010 reduces the total lifetime credit that can be claimed on energy-efficiency improvements made between 2006 and 2011 (excluding 2008, when no credit was available) from \$1,500 to \$500.

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RE Brown County Rural Electrical Association
Connecting our co-ops & members to a progressive future



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This publication focuses on CAP's members, programs and events. As this is the official member publication, member's story ideas, letters-to-the-editor and comments are welcomed.

Andrea Christoffer, CCC, Editor
 "Owned by those it serves"

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Former Federated

members: Call 847-3520, 728-8366 or 1-800-321-3520; ask for Nina or e-mail billing@federatedrea.coop.

- Adams, Stephen, c/o Susan Benson Northfield
- Anderson, Andrew, c/o Everett Prairie Du Sac, WI
- Barker, Randy Fairmont
- Bonnicksen, Deanna, c/o Brandon Bonnicksen Jackson
- Braend, Earl Waverly, IA
- Bulfer, Thomas Henderson, NV
- Chamberlin, Deanna North Platte, NE
- Christensen, Harold Fairmont
- Crissler, Kathy Mrs. Granada
- Cross, Dan Sherburn
- Damon, James Jackson
- Drayfahl, Allyn Truman
- Erickson, George Ashby
- Fernholz, Duane New River, AZ
- Fredin, Wanda Welcome
- Gatton, Peggy Fairmont
- Gaustad, Dale Windom
- Gerdes, Teresa Grand Forks, ND

THESE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED FROM OUR RECORDS!

Help us bring them in for a landing; provide a current address so we can mail them capital credits check

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Glidden, Douglas | Mountain Lake | Yachwak, Duane | Sheldon, IA |
| Glidden, Ruth | Fairmont | | |
| Hannay, James | Estherville, IA | | |
| Hanson, Selmer | Windom | | |
| Heinrich, Paul | Estherville, IA | | |
| Helland, Sandy | Welcome | | |
| Hoel, Cynthia | Jackson | | |
| Howard, Dennis | Winnebago | | |
| Hunt, Geraldine | Jackson | | |
| Isder, Joseph | Lakefield | | |
| James, Melissa | Windom | | |
| Jim's MFG., c/o Jim Hill | Hardy, AR | | |
| Krueger, Robert | Worthington | | |
| Kutzbach, Rolland | Worthington | | |
| Moore, Terri (Benes) | Jackson | | |
| Morrical, Ray | Jefferson, SD | | |
| Morrison, Alva | Worthington | | |
| Oanes, Dean | Trimont | | |
| Paulson, Keith C. | Granada | | |
| Pitlick, Linda | Lakewood, WA | | |
| Powers, Edward | Jackson | | |
| Quesnel, Michael | Prior Lake | | |
| Richey, James | Winnebago | | |
| Ring, Judy | Welcome | | |
| Rosenberg, Louise | Mrs. Fairmont | | |
| Schenk, Dan | Granada | | |
| Schindler, Lane | Lakefield | | |
| Schmidt, Hilda E. | Lakefield | | |
| Scott, Clarence | Brewster | | |
| Sellner, Ben | Fenton, IA | | |
| Steffen, Lyle | Delaware, OH | | |
| Tidyman, Douglas | Jackson | | |
| Tietema, Thomas | Fairmont | | |
| Torbenson, Cindy | Armstrong, IA | | |
| Vandeweerd, Harold | Alton, IA | | |
| Vant Hul, William | Alton, IA | | |
| Vogt, Esther | Fairmont | | |
| Voss, Jerry A. | Lake Park, IA | | |
| Wagner, Tom | Jackson | | |
| Weires, Judy | Jackson | | |

Former South Central

members: Call 375-3164, 628-5571 or 1-888-805-7232; ask for Betty or e-mail bjohnson@southcentralelectric.com.

- Anderson, Bradley A. Walnut Grove
- Barker, Tom Sioux Falls, SD
- Becker, Dwight Mountain Lake
- Bender, Scott Butterfield
- Bogle, Mike Mountain Lake
- Bramstedt, LuAnn Windom
- Bray, Edna Comfrey
- Buhler, Douglas Laguna Niguel, CA
- Buhler, Gene Dana Point, CA
- Ebeling, Bryan Fairmont
- Eberhardt, Joel Tyler
- Fast, Henry J. Windom
- Fisch, Darla Northrup
- Fransen, Tom Rolfe, IA
- Fredin, Anna Marie Windom
- Giersdorf, Kristine Villard
- Hansen, David A. Abiline, KS
- Holland, Todd Annandale
- Hoppe, Scott Alpha
- Hose, Gordon Sleepy Eye
- Jensen, Warren New Hope
- Keech, Robert Darfur
- Kopka, Kevin Northrup
- Kuntz, Al Madelia
- Larson, Mark Anchorage, AK
- Larson, Opal St. James
- Lindemann, Donn Lincoln, NE
- Lindquist, Kevin Winona
- Neimeier, Reinhold Carter Lake, IA
- Perrine, Victor Welcome
- Peterson, Robert C. Trimont



A DOWN-TO-EARTH EXPLANATION OF CAPITAL CREDITS:



As a member-owner, you have a share in the earnings of your not-for-profit electric cooperative. Your co-op's rates are set to bring in enough money to pay operating costs, make loan payments and provide an emergency reserve. Revenues in excess of the cost of doing business are returned to members as capital credits. The co-op holds onto these capital credits for a period of years, according to policy, before returning them to you, the member-owners. The reason your co-op holds onto these monies is because your co-op is a very capital-intensive business. It needs to invest a lot of money in substations, transformers, poles, wire, etc. This investment allows your cooperative to provide reliable electricity to you, our member-owners. 🇺🇸

Pritchett, Herbert Mountain Lake
 Reese, Jay Boonville, MO
 Rohrs, Gordon Vernon Center
 Schmitz, Sharon K. Buffalo
 Schwartz, David J. Stillwater
 Smart, Richard Sioux Falls, SD
 Von Ruedon, Michael Springfield
 Warner, O. M. Windom
 Wetter, Scott Riverside, CA
 Whelan, Daniel Alden
 Winker, Roger Windom
 Zimmer, Afrom Windom
 Zishka, Fred Worthington

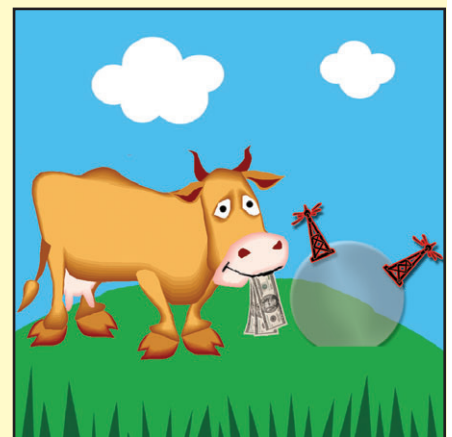
Hall, Steve New Ulm
 Hall, Ted J. Maple Shade, NJ
 Halverson, Steve P. New Ulm
 Hanson, Jerome A. Bellevue, NE
 Helget, Clara New Ulm
 Henrichs, Steven L. Fairfax
 Higdum, Vickie New Ulm
 Hosfield, Paul J. New Ulm
 Johnson, Mary Jo Spirit Lake, IA
 Johnson, Delores L. Monticello
 Kliner, Dale J. Blackstone, VA
 Klossner, Eleanor New Ulm
 Kostecky, Anthony Gretna, LA
 Kraudy, Roxanne Claremont
 Kuck, Hildegard New Ulm
 Lieder, Glen W. Mora
 Maenner Relocation Inc. Omaha, NE
 Melges, Corinne Winthrop
 Mesia, Steven W. Randall
 Miller, Dean Redwood Falls
 Morre, Terry A. New Ulm
 Murphy, Robert E. Stewart
 Musich, Michael J. Redwood Falls
 Neubauer, Vincent T. Mankato
 Olson, Allen E. New Ulm
 Olson, Kent B. Dryden, NJ
 Pavelek, George Glencoe
 Peterson, Diane M. Winnebago
 Peterson, Roland A. Winthrop
 Polesky, Walden E. Morgan
 Purrier, Shirley New Ulm
 Reighard, Paulette Eldora, IA
 Roiger, Nathan Comfrey
 Schultz, Edward C. Searles
 Smith, Marlyn D. Portland, OR
 Smith, Michael W. Brainard
 Smith, Robert L. Lakeville

Sonnenburg, Charles Crete, IL
 Spicer, Debbie L. New Ulm
 Spicer, Gary Zimmerman
 Steffen, Orpha Gibbon
 Stolt, Gerald Lindstrom
 Sullivan, JoAnn Maywood, CA
 Triax Midwest Ass., L.P. Denver, CO
 US West Communications Denver, CO
 Vanderveur, Frank A. Alexandria
 Weber, Kirk C. Jack, AL
 Werner, Kenneth A. Altamonte Springs, FL
 Wieseler, James A. New Ulm
 Williams, Edward C. Hanska 🇺🇸

Former Brown County members: Call 794-3331 or 1-800-658-2368. Otherwise, e-mail bcreea@browncountyrea.coop

Ackerson, Stewart L. Fargo, ND
 Anderson, Duane R. Dunnell
 Arndt, William H. Show Low, AZ
 Bartol, David H. Pine River
 Bengtson, Dr. John Dassel
 Blaschko, Norita Columbus, OH
 Bowley, Beverly A. Kingston, OH
 Carmichael, Terry Rowlett, TX
 Catherman, Daniel R. LaValle, WI
 Earl, Daniel New Ulm
 Ebert, Curtis New Ulm
 Elias, Kenneth L. Racine, WI
 Erickson, Glenn L. Mankato
 Filzen, Jerome T. New Ulm
 Gasner, Jay C. Pemberton
 Giudice, John Stacy
 Gonzales, Jesus Hanska
 Green, Benhard A. Iona

Thanks for helping these former members find their greener pastures (capital credits check)



Brown County Briefs

Trust Board meeting

The Brown County Rural Electric Trust Board will meet to review applications for Operation Round Up funding on Thursday, February 10.

Round Up tax deductions

Working on Your 2010 Taxes? Remember to check your December electric bill for your 2010 tax deductible contribution amount to Operation Round Up.

Youth Tour 2011



High school sophomore and juniors whose parents or guardians are members of Brown County REA, are encouraged to write a 300-word essay on any energy-related topic and submit it, along with the application form, to Brown County REA by the close of business on Friday, March 4, 2011. One student wins an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. June 11-17, 2011.

Brown County REA will select three finalists who will be interviewed in late March, and awards the trip to Washington, D.C. to one of the three. The second place winner will receive \$150 and serve as first alternate for the trip. \$100 will be awarded for third place.

If you would like more information about the contest or to request an application, please contact Brown County REA at 1-800-658-2368 or 507-794-3331 or email Marcia Heiling at m.heiling@browncountyrea.coop. ⚡

74th Annual Meeting March 26th



Be a part of the team! Members make the cooperative's goal of providing reliable, economical electricity possible. Show your support, ask questions, learn more about your cooperative's services and let your voices be heard by voting for Directors at the BCREA Annual Meeting (Districts 2, 3 and 8 are up for election).

Times: Registration: 10:30 a.m.
Meal: 11:30 a.m.
Meeting: 12:30 p.m.
Where: Orchid Inn, Sleepy Eye

Bonus: door prizes given away!

BCREA Health Fair



The BCREA Health Fair will be held Saturday, March 19, at the Sleepy Eye Public School. It goes from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

- Blood panel (including cholesterol, LDL, calcium, glucose, etc.): \$30, plus it requires a 12-hour fast for best results
- PSA test for men: \$25
- Blood pressure check: FREE

Appointments are recommended (call BCREA at 794-3331 or 1-800-658-2368 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday). Walk-ins will be accepted after 7:30 a.m. the morning of the health fair.

Do-it-yourself home energy audits

You can easily conduct a basic home energy audit with a simple, but diligent walk-through. You can find helpful lists and other tools available online at the Touchstone Energy's Home Energy Saver website (www.touchstoneenergysavers.com) or check out the Department of Energy site at <http://homeenergysaver.lbl.gov/pro/>.

Locating air leaks

First, make a list of obvious air leaks (drafts). The potential energy savings from reducing drafts in a home may range from 5 percent to 30 percent per year with a more comfortable residence the result. Check for indoor air leaks, such as gaps along a baseboard or edge of the flooring and at junctures of walls and ceiling.

Inspect windows and doors for air leaks. If you can rattle them, movement means possible air leaks. If you can see daylight around a door or window frame, then the door or window has a leak; you can usually seal these through caulking or weather stripping.

On the outside inspect all areas where two different building materials meet, including all exterior corners, siding and chimney junctures, plus areas where the foundation and the bottom of exterior brick or siding join. You should plug and caulk any holes or penetrations for faucets, pipes, electric outlets and wiring.

Also, look for cracks and holes in the mortar, foundation and siding; seal them with the appropriate material.

When sealing any home, be aware of indoor air pollution and appliance "back drafts." Back drafting occurs when various appliances that burn fuels compete for air with



exhaust fans in the home. An exhaust fan may pull combustion gases back into the living space. This can create a dangerous and unhealthy situation.

Insulation

Heat loss through the ceiling and walls in your home could be very large if insulation levels are less than the recommended minimum. When your house was built, the builder likely installed the amount of insulation recommended (if

any) at that time. Given today's energy prices (and future prices that will probably be higher), your insulation might be inadequate, especially if you have an older home. On-line energy audits will provide more details on checking insulation levels in the attic, walls, and basement.

Heating/cooling equipment

Inspect heating and cooling equipment annually or as recommended by the manufacturer. If you have a forced-air furnace, check filters and replace them as needed. Generally, you should change them about once every month or two, especially during periods of high use. Have a professional check and clean your equipment once a year.

Lighting

On average, lighting accounts for about 10 percent of a home's electric bill. Examine the wattage size of the light bulbs in your house. You may have 100-watt (or larger) bulbs, where 60 or 75 watts would do. You should also consider changing to compact fluorescent light bulbs, especially for areas where lights are left on for hours at a time. ♻️
— Article courtesy of the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Nominating committees seek candidates

Nominating Committees for Districts 2, 3 and 8 have begun the search for candidates to run for positions on the Brown County REA Board of Directors. Election of Directors will be held during the 74th Annual Meeting of Brown County REA, to be held at the Eagles Orchid Inn at Sleepy Eye, Saturday March 26.

District 2 consists of Mulligan and Albin townships in Brown County and part of Nelson Township in Watonwan County. Brad Sprenger is the present director for District 2.

District 3 is made up of Lake Hanska and Linden townships in Brown County, plus parts of Riverdale and Madelia townships in Watonwan County. District 3 is currently represented by Allen Hanson.

District 8 includes Ridgley, West Newton, North and

South Lafayette townships, portions of Cairo and Severance, plus part of Courtland townships in Nicollet County. The present director from District 8 is Reuben Kokesch.

Your input to the nominating committee members would be appreciated and helpful in their selection of director candidates. If you have a member in mind who you believe would be a good candidate, please contact a nominating committee before February 11. Members of the nominating committees are:

District #2: Jeff and Amy Hoffman, Gary Tauer, Jim Sellner.

District #3: Richard & Kathy Schnobrich, Landon Sletta.

District #8: Larry and Sue Hunstad, David Tweit, Scott Schwab. ♻️

2011 tax credits still apply to central air, air source and ground source heat pumps

— Continued from Page 1

It also lowers the percentage of efficiency upgrade costs consumers can recover from 30 percent in 2009-2010 to 10 percent in 2011.

“Basically, energy-efficiency tax credits revert to levels approved for 2006 and 2007, before the federal stimulus bill pumped up the program,” explained the co-op’s energy expert. “A lifetime cap of \$500 exists for any work that’s done. If you haven’t applied for an energy-efficiency tax credit before, this extension gives you a chance to recoup some of the costs needed to make your home more efficient.”

Maximum allowances apply for different upgrades. For installing more efficient windows the tax credit is limited to \$200; a \$300 cap goes toward “any item of energy-efficient building property.”

Other tax credits include:

- Furnaces (\$150): Must have at least 95 percent (up from 90 percent) annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE). Oil furnaces and boilers were returned to the single furnace category at 95 percent AFUE.
- Advanced main air circulating fan (\$50): Must utilize less than 2 percent of a furnace’s total energy consumption.
- Central air conditioner (\$300): Must have a Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) of at least 16 and an Energy Efficiency Rating (EER) of at least 13. (Your electric cooperative also offers Quality Install rebates on central air.)
- Air source heat pump (\$300): Must have at least a Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) of 9, SEER of 16, and EER of 13. Your electric cooperative also offers Quality Install rebates on air source heat pumps. (Keep reading for more details on the ground source heat pump tax credits outlined under renewables.)
- Biomass fuel stove (\$300): Must have a thermal efficiency rating of at least 75 percent.

Renewable tax credits remain active

Renewable energy tax credits created by the federal stimulus bill don’t expire until December 31, 2016. These



Energy-efficient systems are still on sale! Tax incentives allow you to save on energy-efficient purchases. For example, gain a \$300 tax credit on an air-source heat pump, plus the co-op’s rebate.

credits cover 30 percent of the cost of materials and installation for residential solar panels, solar water heaters, small wind turbines and ground source heat pumps. Details are available at energystar.gov/taxcredits.

Builders and manufacturers benefit too

The bill reinstates a credit of up to \$2,000 for builders (during 2010 and 2011) of energy-efficient residences that use no more than half the energy of a 2003 national model energy code home (the credit had expired in 2009). In addition, U.S.-based manufacturers of clothes washers, dishwashers and refrigerators will receive credits ranging from \$25 to \$200 for efficient appliance models produced in America during 2008, 2009 and 2010. (Your electric cooperative offers certain Energy Star appliances rebates; check with your co-op for details.)

“While consumers cannot take these types of credits directly, these units may be promoted by manufacturers, by the states or utility efficiency programs, during the next two years,” notes the Tax Incentives Assistance Project. The group operates a website, www.energytaxincentives.org, devoted to tracking efficiency incentives.

Claiming tax credits

Tax credits are beneficial because they directly reduce, dollar for dollar, any taxes you owe. Be sure to keep your receipts and your Manufacturer’s Certification Statement (a signed statement from the manufacturer certifying that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit) for your records. Then claim the credit on your taxes using IRS Form 5695. Consult your tax preparer with any questions.

Looking for help?

Some state government offices offer additional subsidies or rebates to consumers who make their homes more energy efficient. For a list of federal and state energy efficiency rebates and tax credits visit the Database for State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency, a project funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (www.dsireusa.org). 📖

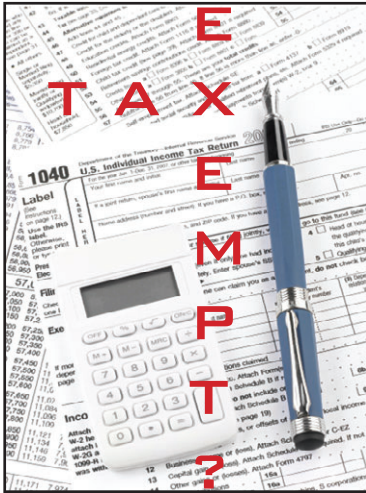




Fed the family fresh bread? Go dig out dough recipes

Dig out your bread dough recipes, whether for bread machines, using frozen bread dough, from scratch or even gluten free; share with us your favorite bread dough recipes. Mail to: Editor, Federated Rural Electric, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069 or e-mail to christoffer@federatedrea.coop. Otherwise, drop it off at your local electric co-op. Add your name and phone number. 📧

Taxing questions simplified on heating and agricultural production exemptions



To tax or not to tax...

Let us highlight two tax exemptions. Maybe you added a heat pump recently or dropped your electric heat; then it's time to update your heating exemption. If you added a hog barn or grain set up, did you complete the agricultural production exemption? Read on!

1. Heating exemption

If electricity is your primary source of residential heat, the kilowatt-hours used for heating your home are exempt from sales tax. Primary means 50 percent or more of your heating. The heating season lasts from November to April.

To obtain exemption from sales tax on kilowatt hours used for heating, obtain a Residential Heating Fuel Exemption Form from your cooperative. If you have declared your exempt status by signing a fuel exemption form in the past, a record is retained. However, you may need to renew this certificate periodically, as required by your co-op.

If your heat source has changed or is in combination with wood or other fuel (such as the Dual Fuel program), you may need to re-evaluate your exemption status. Members receiving an exemption status when electric heat is not your primary source are in violation of the state sales tax law.

2. Agricultural production exemption

Electricity used for agricultural or industrial production could be sales tax exempt. It is the member's responsibility to determine whether this is true for their agricultural operation and to work through the process of obtaining relief from sales tax.

First, the member should obtain an ST-3 form from their electric cooperative or online at www.taxes.state.mn.us/forms/st3.pdf. Open Fact Sheet 100 for additional information. The form requires members to determine what percent of their electricity usage is sales tax exempt due to utility needs. Again, determining this percentage is the member's responsibility. Once the ST-3 form is completed, the member should return it to their electric cooperative for filing. 📧

Crock Pot Mushrooms

by Sharon Olson, St. James

- 1 lb. butter
 - 1 packet of Hidden Valley Original Ranch Mix
 - 4 containers of whole fresh mushrooms
- Simmer on low for 5 to 6 hours. 📧



Sirloin House Wild Rice Casserole by Lola Schultze, Ceylon

- 1 c. wild rice
- 4 c. boiling water
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 8 oz. can mushroom stems & pieces, drained
- 2 beef bouillon cubes, dissolved in 1½ c. hot water
- ¼ tsp. each of celery salt, garlic powder, black pepper, onion salt and paprika
- ¾ c. chopped celery
- 2 T. onion, chopped
- ¼ c. slivered almonds

Put the wild rice in a saucepan and then pour boiling water over it. Let it stand for 20 minutes. Drain off the water; put the rice in a two-quart casserole. Add the soups and mushrooms. Dissolve the bouillon cubes in 1½ c. hot water. Add the ¼ tsp. of all the seasonings to beef bouillon; mix thoroughly. Then add to the rice casserole mixture. Saute the celery and onions in a frying pan; add to casserole. Sprinkle slivered almonds on top. Bake at 350° for 1½ hours. Makes eight servings. 📧

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www.gopherstateonecall.org

Contact Gopher State One Call (GSOC) before doing any digging more than 12-inches deep — 48 hours before digging for foundations, trees, tiling and more. You can also register on the website at www.gopherstateonecall.org. 📧





Lonnie Spaeth
Office Manager

Staff notes

2010 year-end wrap up...

The year-end always comes with a lot of once-a-year-tasks. These include closing the books on the old year, open the books on the new year, year-end material inventory check, prepare the financial budget for the next year and preparing for the annual visit of the financial auditors. At Brown County REA, when the end of the year arrives, a lot of numbers get reviewed and analyzed. Of main interest is kWh sales — how did we compare to the original 2010 budget and how did we compare to last year.

Compare 2010 Actual to 2010 Budget				
	2010 Budget	2010 Actual	Difference	% Change
kWh Sold	140,878,503	141,367,795	489,292	+0.35

Compare 2009 Actual to 2010 Actual				
	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	Difference	% Change
kWh Sold	141,231,612	141,367,795	131,183	+0.10

As you can see, the numbers when comparing actual kWh sold to our budget number and also when comparing actual to the previous year were pretty close. Weather is always a big factor in the fluctuation of kWh usage and 2010 was no exception. We had air conditioning take place in the summer, but usage dropped considerably in the fall due to little or no corn drying. Therefore, it's not much of a change from the previous year.

Below is the Statement of Operations as of 12/31/10. When looking at the dollars, you'll notice that the Cost of Power continues to rise; now representing 67 percent of our expenses. Because revenue collected is driven by our Cost of Power, it also rises. Any business needs good margins to be strong and your co-op is indeed strong as reflected by the margins shown on the bottom line. These are the margins that get allocated back to you, the members, in the form of capital credits. 🍄

		2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2010 Budget
Revenue	+	\$11,462,761	\$12,069,502	\$11,770,859
Cost of Power	-	7,481,791	8,098,394	7,739,325
Operations Expense	-	340,703	381,582	345,835
Maintenance Expense	-	574,311	569,586	624,427
Consumer Accts. Exp.	-	140,713	144,830	150,453
Customer Service Exp.	-	177,274	186,003	187,185
Admin. & General Exp.	-	778,377	855,925	835,779
Depreciation Exp.	-	804,280	828,610	844,347
Interest Exp.	-	571,884	564,163	592,056
Misc. Exp.	-	<u>15,299</u>	<u>5,792</u>	<u>6,500</u>
Operating Margins	=	578,129	434,617	444,952
Interest Income & Misc. Margins	+	54,248	221,786	60,500
Other Capital Credits	+	<u>407,738</u>	<u>318,276</u>	<u>331,000</u>
Total Margins	=	\$1,040,115	\$974,679	\$836,452



**Brown County
Rural Electrical
Association**

Brown County Rural Electrical Assn.
24386 State Hwy 4, PO Box 529
Sleepy Eye MN 56085

E-mail address: bcra@browncountyrea.coop
Website: www.browncountyrea.coop

Office hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Wade Hensel, General Manager

Board of Directors

Thomas Hayes, President — 228-8954
James Mickelson, Vice President — 794-6298
James D. Hanson, Sec.-Treasurer — 877-3631
Christ Christensen — 249-3460
Robert Berg, Jr. — 359-2158
Brad Sprenger — 877-2633
Allen Hanson — 439-6987
Reuben Kokesch — 359-2112
Elmer Guggisberg — 354-8320
The Board of Directors meets the last Thursday of each month.

Board meeting highlights

The Brown County REA Board of Directors held its monthly board meeting January 24 at the Brown County REA office in Sleepy Eye. Discussion and/or action were taken on the following agenda items:

- Reviewed and approved the December 2010 minutes, new member applications, member cancellations, disbursements and payments to estates.
- General manager reported that 2010 kilowatt hour sales were almost identical to 2009 sales.
- Reported on meeting and rate discussion with Heartland Corn Products.
- Reviewed progress on meter change outs and substation inspections.
- Reviewed plans for the 74th Annual Meeting, set for March 26, 2001 at the Eagles Orchid Inn, Sleepy Eye.
- Reviewed and approved the OSHA 300 annual report and its findings of no reportable accidents with injuries.
- Reviewed and approved director meeting reports and individual director reports.

The next meeting will be February 24, 2011 at the BENCO office in Mankato. 🍄

