



cve@caneyvalley.com

www.caneyvalley.com

For emergency outages please call 800-310-8911

THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.



The Voice

Caney Valley Electric Co-op, Inc.

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Office Hours

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

Power Cost Adjustment

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for October is \$0.0124/kilowatt-hour. This amounts to an additional \$11.24 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours. The PCA was implemented in 2002 to cover only the increase (or decrease) in power costs (over and above 7¢/kwh) charged to us by our wholesale power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) in Topeka. The PCA varies each month depending on the wholesale charges from KEPCo and is a flow-through on your electric bill.

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Remember “Safety First” Around Power Lines

Due to a recent incident that could have resulted in an electrocution fatality or catastrophic injury, we are including this “Safety First” message from a previous newsletter to emphasize the utmost importance for the public to be aware of electric utility power lines.

Recently, there were two instances of public contacts with utility power lines. Both situations involved persons doing work near power lines requiring awareness of their surroundings to prevent an accident. One event caused death and the other caused unconsciousness with a later miraculous recovery.

Kansas Country Living magazine routinely includes messages about electric utility line safety and the following is another reminder for us all.

“Safety first” is an old, common phrase which well describes the daily operations of the cooperative. Our employees, both line workers and administrative perform their work following appropriate safety standards.

Monthly safety meetings are held with professional safety instructors and programs emphasizing the correct work procedures and the importance of working in a safety-minded environment.

“Safety first” on the job benefits the cooperative’s operations even beyond avoiding tragic accidents. It helps to keep employees on the job and not absent due to injury. It builds a common thread of confidence and competence among the employees. It sets a good example for the cooperative members

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Be Aware of Power Line Hazards

- ▶ Aircraft wire strikes
- ▶ Antennas
- ▶ Children’s kites/toys in a line
- ▶ Child in a haystack under a line
- ▶ Child in tree
- ▶ Consumers or contractors trimming trees
- ▶ Delivery truck booms
- ▶ Downed line after car accidents
- ▶ Downed line from farm equipment
- ▶ Electrical work by consumers or electricians
- ▶ Fighting fire from downed line after a storm
- ▶ Grain auger
- ▶ Illegal service reconnections
- ▶ Irrigation pipe
- ▶ Ladders and scaffolding
- ▶ Underground service dig-ins
- ▶ Utility construction contractors
- ▶ Oil and water well-digging apparatus

Proof was Signed Off on 09-15-20 1:17 pm by Kitty Champlin

Don't Miss the Opportunity to Make Your Voice Heard

There's an old political saying, "if you're not at the table, you're on the menu." This adage is the perfect answer to the question, "why vote?" It's a blunt description of what happens when you don't engage in the political process.

If you don't vote, you're not only missing the opportunity to support a candidate that shares your views and concerns, you're allowing others to chart a course that impacts your future.

Your Vision, Your Vote

While local elections may not be as exciting as the high-profile presidential election, they are just as critical. Local elections have a direct impact on your community and on your quality of life.

Like the national level, local elections represent who we are as a community, and more importantly, where we want to go. Whether it's an election for a mayor, sheriff, state representative, school board, or an electric co-op board member, your vision for the community is tied to your vote.

Voting keeps elected officials accountable. Elections are a direct and tangible source of feedback. For example, Caney Valley Electric board members provide strategic guidance on the direction of the co-op and how it serves the community. Local board members embody the voice and identity of the community.

Remember "Safety First"...

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to follow in their work, play and daily activities. It helps to control the cooperative's costs on workers' compensation and general liability insurance.

We encourage the public to also put "safety first" to avoid potential power line hazards. Overhead lines are so common in our everyday lives, they can fade from view and people can forget the life-threatening danger if contact is made. On page 16A is a list of types of public contacts with electric utility power lines that have occurred involving electric cooperatives in recent years.

We all need to be aware of electric power lines and to avoid circumstances that could cause contact with them. Please help us to prevent an accident in our co-op community.

ALLEN A. ZADOROZNY,
GENERAL MANAGER

Staying in Sync with the Community

Ultimately, the role of the co-op board is governance. While day-to-day decisions are made by our employees, bigger decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the members we serve.

Caney Valley Electric board members provide their perspective on community priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

However, boards are not perfect, and we need you, the members of the co-op, to help keep the system in check. We depend on you and your neighbors to vote so that we can stay on course and ensure we are in sync with the community we serve.

A strong voter turnout shows investment in the community and ensures diverse views are represented. The whole community benefits when more people participate in the process because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

By voting in national, state, and local elections, you are serving as a role model for your family, friends, and colleagues. The act of voting demonstrates your support for the community and helps officials chart a course for the future. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Research candidates, learn about issues on the ballot, and get out and vote!

Participating in Community Events

Willie Wiredhand was seen recently in Sedan and Cedar Vale, participating in a couple local parades. Floats were made by Caney Valley Electric employees.



Left: "All American Flair" was the theme for the 2020 Chautauqua County Fair. Caney Valley's float received the second place prize. The lightbulbs on the American flag represent employees, past and present.

Right: Cedar Vale celebrated its 150th birthday over Labor Day weekend in September. "Celebrate!" was the theme for the parade and was evident in several birthday-cake floats.



Cold Weather Rule Begins Nov. 1

The Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) adopted a statewide, uniform Cold Weather Disconnection Rule on March 20, 1989, which governs termination or restoration of utility service when consumers are financially unable to pay utility bills from Nov. 1 to March 31 annually.

Caney Valley Electric has adopted this Cold Weather Disconnection Rule (CWR) with certain modifications to accommodate our consumers.

Cooperative members who are unable to pay their electric service bills during the cold weather period may qualify for this program, provided they fulfill certain good faith requirements when attempting to pay, as summarized below:

- ▶ Members must notify the cooperative and state their inability to pay their service bill in full.
- ▶ Members must apply to federal, state, local or other financial assistance programs for which they may be eligible to receive aid in paying utility bills. Your cooperative can inform you of agencies or organizations that may provide financial assistance.
- ▶ Members must make an initial minimum payment equal to 1/3 of the total amount due the cooperative which includes any arrearage. (Example: If a customer owed an arrearage of \$200 and a current bill of \$40, they would owe the cooperative a total of \$240. The initial payment under the Cold Weather Rule would be equal to \$240 divided by 3, or \$80.) All previous arrearage average payment plans must be paid off before entering into another plan.
- ▶ Members will be required to enter a level payment plan agreement for past, current and future charges for electric service, with arrears

paid in equal installments over the next two months. A consumer and the cooperative may negotiate other payment arrangements mutually agreeable, individualized to the consumer's situation, providing the most appropriate terms, after the consumer has been informed that he or she has at least two months in which to pay under the Cold Weather Plan.

- ▶ Members will be required to provide sufficient financial information to enable the cooperative to determine an appropriate payment agreement. Please note that consumers may be ineligible for the benefits under the Cold Weather Disconnection Rule if they fail to follow the above requirements, illegally divert utility service, receive service by tampering as defined by KCC rules or default on a payment agreement.

In no event will the cooperative disconnect service if the temperature is forecast to fall below 30 degrees F within 24 hours following the time of disconnection.

Please be advised that once an agreement has been made and those terms are defaulted on, the agreement becomes null and void and the member's electric service will be subject to immediate disconnection.

It is the belief of some that once the CWR is in effect, electric bills can be ignored and the cooperative will not disconnect service; this is not true. The cooperative can and will disconnect for non-payment if the above criteria are not met.

The Cold Weather Rule is to ensure that human health and safety are not unreasonably endangered during the cold weather months. Contact our office for more information.

Caney Valley's Operating Statistics

For Month Ending	July 2020	July 2019
Meters Billed	5,211	5,291
kWh Purchased	6,631,343	6,303,722
Cost Per kWh	0.07368	0.08030
kWh Sold	5,367,440	5,045,151
Total Revenue	\$ 856,892	\$ 834,887
Purchased Power	\$ 490,949	\$ 507,405
Operating Expenses	\$ 239,803	\$ 237,120
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 68,892	\$ 67,893
Interest Expenses	\$ 42,680	\$ 48,676
Other Expenses	\$ 188	\$ 1,082
Operating Margins	\$ 14,381	\$ (27,289)
Non-Operating Margins	\$ 2,527	\$ 1,961
Total Working Margins	\$ 16,908	\$ (25,328)
Margins Year-to-Date	\$ (136,732)	\$ (113,659)

Statement of Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Outages for August 2020

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Following are the larger outages that occurred in August.

Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
8/15	Grenola Substation A-phase	80	50 min	Faulty arrester
8/18	Longton Substation C-phase	78	1 hr 20 min	50 amp OCR failed
8/18	A-phase to Wayside	35	25 min	Reset OCR

CO-OP MONTH FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Did you know October is National Co-op Month?

Complete the fill-in-the-blank activity below to learn about a few ways co-ops are unique! Use the word bank if you need help.



1. Co-ops and their members work together toward a common _____.
2. Co-ops are _____ organizations, so they understand the communities they serve.
3. All co-ops operate according to the same set of seven cooperative _____.
4. Concern for _____ is the seventh cooperative principle.
5. Co-ops don't have customers; we have _____.
6. Co-ops are _____ by the members they serve.

WORD BANK

LED
LOCAL

GOAL
PRINCIPLES

MEMBERS
COMMUNITY

Answer key: 1) goal 2) local 3) principles 4) community 5) members 6) led

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