

FEC POWER

Source

Vol. 25 No. 11

Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Warning: In-Person Scams Rising

Utility scams are on the rise, particularly in-person scams. Recently, Farmers' Electric (FEC) was contacted by members alerting us to a team of individuals going door-to-door posing as employees and asking for entrance into the home for a "survey." The two were wearing bright yellow safety vests. Luckily, our members felt a little suspicious and didn't let them in their home and called us right away. That was the right thing to do.

Utility scammers go to great lengths to look and sound the part for in-person scams. Some will wear clothing similar to utility line workers. Others may have official-looking documents. But if you are not expecting an in-person visit and knock on your door by an FEC employee, do not let them enter your home and immediately call us to check if the person is authorized by us or is employed by us to be there. In-person utility scammers tell a variety of stories to try to enter your home or property.

These may include the following:

- **Equipment readings/replacement.** The scammer(s) may ask to come inside to "fix" a meter or gather a reading and tell you there is a fee for this service. But all repair work should be scheduled in advance with FEC and should not come as a surprise.
- **Home improvement offers.** Scammers may offer you free inspections, audits, or surveys for your home, which may sound like a good deal, but their "findings" may result in your having to purchase an expensive and unnecessary fix. Or, they may be exploring your home to plan for a future break-in.
- **High bill investigation.** Scammers may approach your home and claim your bill has been unusually

high and say they need to come in and find the source of the high usage in your home. FEC would only come to a home at the request of its members with a high bill concern.



Again, the scammers' goal is often to steal your valuables on their first visit or to gain information that will help them with future burglaries. Call us before allowing any unscheduled entry by someone posing as an FEC employee. If you feel threatened at any time, call 911.

Scammers may ask for personal information, including social security numbers, credit card information, and answers to personal questions, in order to commit identity theft. Do not provide any of this information to unscheduled visitors.

They may have things with them that look official. Here are some examples to watch out for:

- Clipboards
- Utility badges
- Orange/yellow vests
- Hard hats
- Handheld radios

It's easy for scammers to acquire such things, so always verify with FEC, using the number on your bill (800) 445-8541, before answering questions or granting entry into your home. It's always better to be safe than sorry.

Manager's Message...

Season of Change



Lance R. Adkins, GM

It is hard to believe, as I write we are well into November and the petunias continue to bloom in front of our house, more colorful, and full of blooms than any point during the summer. Like most “good things,” I understand the time is near for the blooms of summer to be gone as fall transitions into winter. Nature too understands that winter is near, the days are shorter, the trees are turning color and shedding leaves, and the squirrels in our neighborhood have stripped our two pecan trees bare of immature pecans. Most of those pecans have been stashed in the lawn turf and can be easily found when walking barefoot across the yard – that’s okay, we like to watch the squirrels. Like many readers, fall is my favorite time of year, not too hot, not too cold, and wind behaves for the most part!

Unfortunately, one needs only spend a few minutes watching local, state, or national news to become discouraged, and I admit, too often I am prone to see the glass as “half-empty” rather than “half-full.” I admire those determined to keep and display a spirit of optimism in the face of challenges, being thankful and optimistic is a choice. At Farmers’ Electric (FEC), we have good reasons to celebrate as we enter this season of thanksgiving; our service area experienced above average rainfall during the growing season, farmers and ranchers are celebrating a good harvest and good forage for grazing. Covid is still with us, even now our state is reporting a “surge” in new cases; however, the store shelves are well stocked, treatment options are improving, and folks increasingly display a spirit of optimism as they look to the future.

As we move towards the end of this year and prepare budgets for 2022, like most of our members, we have concerns about inflationary influences on the cost of the materials, equipment, and fuel for operations. In addition, lead times for some material and components are more than 40-weeks. Oftentimes, once an order is placed, delivery dates get extended multiple times creating delays in completion of some construction projects. One of our suppliers reported that one manufacturer informed them that the equipment ordered (transformers) were ready to ship, but the manufacturer would not honor the agreed to price; the only option, do you want the equipment or not? FEC has also had trouble in scheduling routine repairs to vehicles as some service parts are unavailable. Fortunately, the bulk of FEC’s major construction projects have been completed, still, there are several projects where we are waiting on specific components to complete work. Personally, on a recent trip to the lumberyard, I noticed the price of 2x4 studs was again well below \$5, and they

“At Farmers’ Electric, we have good reasons to celebrate as we enter this season of thanksgiving.”

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POWER SOURCE

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(575) 762-4466

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Scholarship Applications Available Now!

Farmers' Electric Cooperative will be awarding scholarships again this year through the Farmers' Electric Education Foundation. Scholarship applications may be obtained from area high school guidance counselors or from cooperative office locations in Clovis, Ft. Sumner, and Santa Rosa. Scholarship applications can also be requested by calling the Clovis office at 575-762-4466 or 800-445-8541 or by going online to www.fecnm.org. All cooperative members and their dependents are eligible to apply for these scholarships.

Don't Delay! Deadline For Applications Is February 1, 2022!



As in the past, there are two different scholarship forms. Be sure when requesting a form that you specify either the "Graduating High School Student Application" or the "Returning College Application." Both forms are available from any FEC office or are available to download from www.fecnm.org.

This year, the FEC Board of Trustees has authorized (63) \$1,000 scholarships and (1) \$2,000 Glenn Holland Memorial scholarship.

The Farmers' Electric Education Foundation was established by the members of the cooperative in 1986 and is funded through donated and unclaimed patronage capital refunds and donations by private individuals.

Only the interest earned on donations is used for scholarships, ensuring that the Education Foundation will continue to support higher education for our members for many years to come. Through 2021, the foundation has awarded 1,383 scholarships totalling \$1,031,730.00.



FEC offices will be closed November 25-26 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. For Outages, call: 800-445-8541

Attention: Irrigation Consumers Subject: Irrigation Annual Minimum Charges

In accordance with Farmers' Electric Cooperative's irrigation rate schedule, certain annual minimum charges apply to all irrigation accounts. Your original minimum charges were calculated through a contract with the Cooperative based on the cost of line extension to the irrigation load. Upon expiration of the contract, the horsepower on that account determines the annual minimum at the rate of \$20.00 per horsepower, but not less than \$110.00 for single-phase service, and not less than \$165.00 for three-phase service.

Under the irrigation rate schedule, consumers have one calendar year, (approximately December 20 through December 20 of the following year), in which to use the annual minimum charges. The December billing will reflect the remaining charges, if any.

If you have any questions regarding the annual minimum charges for your irrigation account(s), please contact the Cooperative's Billing Department at 575-762-4466 or 800-445-8541.

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had plenty of them.

FEC is also experiencing higher costs for wholesale power from Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC), primarily related to increases in the cost of natural gas used to generate a portion of the electricity we receive. FEC members are seeing these increased costs reflected on monthly electric bills through the Fuel and Purchased Power Adjustment Clause (FPPCAC), a separate line item on the bill. FEC's FPPCAC has been negative, or a credit on monthly bills for more than six years; however, the FPPCAC will turn positive on November bill statements. At this time, these higher wholesale costs are expected to remain in place through the first quarter of 2022. Given the status of our current political and regulatory environment, it is difficult for me to be "optimistic" that the current spike in costs will be short-lived.

Until next month,



New Mexico Youth Tour Cancelled

2022



From a statement released by the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NMRECA): "At our November Board meeting the Board of Directors voted to cancel our participation in the 2022 Government-in-Action Youth Tour due to health and safety concerns of our youth."

Gas and propane for winter heating likely to see double digit growth; Electric up also: EIA

According to a statement by the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), Americans should be prepared to pay quite a bit more for heating fuels this winter over last. Here is their forecast:

- Propane: +54%**
- Natural Gas: +30%**
- Electricity: +6%**

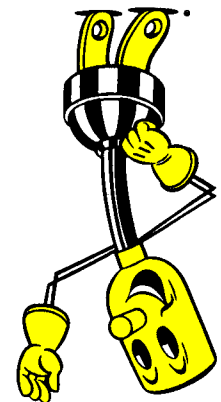


**Note: It is assumed that electricity won't see the increases at the same levels as propane and natural gas because of the diversity of fuel mixtures used to produce electricity including coal, natural gas, nuclear, wind, solar, and water (hydroelectric).*



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