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POWER Source

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Youth Tour Delegates Return From Washington, D.C.

Somehow it just isn't the same – reading about something in a book or actually seeing it first-hand, living it. This is the feeling our Government In Action Youth Tour delegates express when they return from their trips to our nation's capital, Washington, D.C.

This year was no different. Cody Massey representing Tucumcari High School and Genae Cone representing Logan High School recently returned from their Youth Tour trip sponsored by Farmers' Electric Co-op and other electric co-ops throughout the state. Both young people expressed gratitude for the opportunity to participate in this year's tour and spoke fondly of the memories they will carry with them the rest of their lives.



Genae Cone and Cody Massey

While most average high school seniors-to-be spent their summer vacation sleeping late, watching entirely too much T.V., swimming, or maybe even working, Misha and Tye enjoyed a 7 day trip to Washington, D.C. with approximately 30 other of New Mexico's best and brightest.

While in Washington, the tour included numerous presidential and war memorials, the National Cathedral, Ford's Theater, Mount Vernon, Arlington Cemetery, the Smithsonian Institution, meetings with

the New Mexico Congressional delegation, and many other fun and exciting things. Cody said, "I had so much fun and met so many people from all over the country! I made new friends and made memories that will last a lifetime." Cody explained that his overall favorite parts of the tour were, "the Smithsonian Museums and all the different war memorials."

Genae had an equally good time in Washington. "This whole experience, overall, was nothing short of amazing." When asked what her favorite memories of the trip might be, Genae said, "One of my favorite memories of the trip would be going to Capital Hill and meeting our senators and representatives." "I actually enjoyed every part of this trip... again, it is something I will never forget." Genae was asked if she thought others should go through the process of applying for the trip next year. "I do sincerely hope that other kids take the time to sign up for a chance to go, they will

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Poles Being Treated In Your Area

Continuing through this month and into late November or early December, GLS, Ground Line Services out of San Antonio, Texas, will be testing and treating poles for Farmers' Electric, (FEC) in and around the Santa Rosa, New Mexico portions of the service area.

Pole testing and treating is a yearly maintenance program that FEC performs, however, every pole is not tested each year, rather, they are tested on a ten year rotation.



This type of maintenance program helps to ensure that FEC can continue to supply safe, reliable electricity to our members.

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Manager's Message...

Lance Adkins, GM

Lesser Prairie Chicken Debate Continues

As an update to the March and June articles regarding the timeline of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for consideration of listing the Lesser Prairie Chicken as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are some encouraging developments. New Mexico Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich joined with senators from four neighboring states requesting FWS Director, Daniel M. Ashe, to delay a final decision until all relevant information can be evaluated. Senate leaders specifically called on the FWS to evaluate the merits of the five-state plan developed by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA).

Readers will recall, the FWS has identified the historical range of the lesser prairie chicken as covering portions of five states including Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Colorado. For members of Farmers' Electric, the historic range of the lesser prairie chicken covers the entire service area of the Cooperative and a listing of the species as threatened or endangered could significantly alter future development of wind energy and transmission lines across the Cooperative's service area.

In response to the request by ten Senators, across five states affected by the decision, Director Ashe advised that FWS would be extending the final listing determination by six months, through March 30, 2014. Director Ashe declined to extend the final decision to June 2014 as requested, stating the six-month extension should give FWS sufficient time to review additional comments filed, including the five-state plan. In addition, Director Ashe noted that "public comments received by FWS have highlighted substantial scientific disagreement regarding the sufficiency or accuracy of the available data relevant to the listing proposal for the lesser prairie chicken."

According to the FWS, the lesser prairie chicken may be listed as either threatened or endangered based on the full assessment of the status of the lesser prairie chicken in light of the five ESA listing factors: 1) the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of habitat or range; 2) over-utilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; 3) disease or predation; 4) the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; and 5) other natural or man-made factors. Unfortunately, negative economic impact to the five state region, including the entire area served by Farmers' Electric and the impact to individual, private landowners are not factors identified to be considered under the ESA process.

In addition, at the request of regional and county governments, the FWS held a Coordination Meeting with affected Counties in Portales, New Mexico, on July 11. While members of the public were not allowed to make comments, they were allowed to attend the proceedings. It was reported that eight counties were represented and elected officials were given the opportunity to make comments as well as enter expert testimony into the public record for consideration.

Under a Multi-District Litigation settlement agreement between FWS and other litigants, the Lesser Prairie Chicken is one of nearly 200 species under review through the Endangered Species Act. Additional information regarding the lesser prairie chicken and ESA process can be found at the FWS website www.fws.gov/Endangered. The five-state plan being developed by WAFWA, including the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, can be viewed at www.wafwa.org. We continue to ask our congressional delegation to take action to examine the ESA and determine what changes can be made to assure that the operation of the ESA does not adversely impact the economic vitality of New Mexico and other rural states.

Until Next Month,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lance Adkins".

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Phone 762-4466 or

1-800-445-8541

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An Outage**

We are on-call 24 hours each day, 365 days each year, to serve **your** electric power needs.

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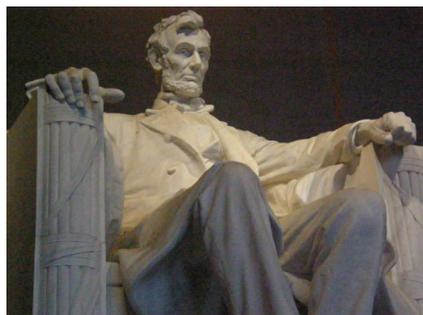
1-800-445-8541

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never regret it.”

Farmers’ goal, through our association with the Government In Action Youth Tour, is to increase the students’ understanding of government, our nation’s history, and electric cooperatives. Based on what our participants have shared with us, we believe we have accomplished this goal.

If you are a high school Junior this year, what are your plans for next summer? Don’t just lay around counting the days until school starts, take a trip of a lifetime! We promise, it will change you forever. Watch this publication for more information on the tour or ask your guidance counselor for more details.



Ask Wille!



Q. Dear Willie, I was wondering what I should do with my old, burnt out CFLs? I understand they contain a small amount of mercury. Do you have any suggestions?

A. You’re right! They do contain a miniscule amount of mercury, but it is always better to be safe than sorry. Here are a few suggestions for you:

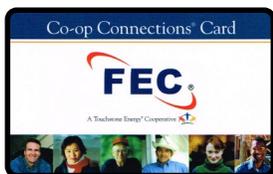
- Contact your local waste collection agency about its policies for recycling the bulbs.
- Earth911.com is a good place to look for collection or drop-off locations and schedules. This website has information about recycling and repurposing all sorts of materials.
- Local hardware stores, especially big-box ones such as Lowe’s and Home Depot, often offer in-store recycling.
- Check with your CFL manufacturer. Some sell pre-labeled kits so you can mail back your used light bulbs.
- As a last resort, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggests putting your old CFLs in a plastic bag before putting them in with your regular trash to help prevent the mercury from escaping.

FEC
Attn: Willie
PO Box 550
Clovis, NM 88102

Highlight Business of the Month!

Coffee Bistro

4101 N. Prince St.
 Clovis, NM
 (575) 935-3490



***Deal: 10% Off Total Ticket**
“Best Deli Sandwiches in Town”

To learn more about how your business can benefit from becoming a Co-op Connections partner or to **request a card**, call the Co-op today at 800-445-8541. To view all the local, regional, and national deals, visit www.fecnm.org.

**Pharmacy discounts are not insurance and are not intended as a substitute for insurance.*

Coping with a Power Outage

Through rain, wind, snow, and ice, Farmers' Electric Cooperative (FEC) strives to keep the power on for every home and business in its service area. But sometimes unexpected conditions will cause our electric cooperative members to temporarily lose power. When storms or other circumstances cause an outage, you can rest assured that FEC will take immediate action to restore service. Although FEC works as quickly as possible to get the power back on, there are some steps you can take before, during, and after an outage to make it easier to cope.

- **LIGHT:** Always have alternate sources of light on hand. It could be a flashlight with extra batteries, candles, kerosene or oil lamps. Keep your alternate light source in an established place where it can be found easily in an outage situation.



- **INFORMATION:** Have a battery-powered radio available. The radio, TV, and websites will bring you weather reports, local news bulletins and other important emergency information. During a widespread more lengthy outage, FEC will contact local radio stations and other media about restoration efforts.

- **FOOD:** Stock emergency food and related items along with a manual can opener. Keep your refrigerator/freezer doors closed as much as possible to reduce the chance of food spoilage.

- **WATER:** If your water supply comes from a well with an electric water pump, you need to prepare prior a storm. Sanitize and fill spare containers with water for drinking and cooking. Also, fill your bathtub with water for other uses.

- **HEAT SOURCES IN WINTER:** When the power goes out, so do most heating systems. If you have a fireplace or wood-burning stove, make sure you keep plenty of wood during the winter. A portable electric generator is another good option for back-up power, as long as it is properly installed and safely operated.

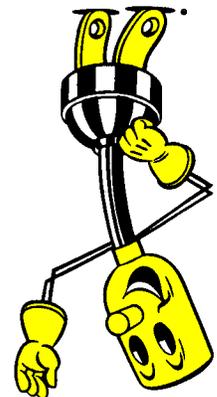
- **PROTECT YOUR APPLIANCES:** Turn off all large appliances at the service entrance panel and disconnect sensitive equipment such as DVD players, stereos, computers and televisions to avoid damage from lightning or a power surge. If all of these appliances were to come back on at once, they might overload your home's electric circuits. Leave a single lamp turned on to let you know when your electric service has been restored.

- **PLAY IT SAFE:** Never touch downed power lines or anything contacting power lines. Although you may see lines that are down, they could still be energized. Never attempt to move trees from power lines. Let qualified servicemen from FEC handle the clearing and repair work.

- **CONFIRM THE OUTAGE:** First check lights and appliances in other rooms. If you still have power in some areas, most likely a fuse has blown or a circuit breaker has been tripped. If all lights are off, check to see if your neighbor's lights are also off. This will help FEC determine the extent of the outage.

- **CALL FEC:** Report outages or any unsafe condition by calling 800-445-8541.

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