

FEC POWER Source

Vol. 18 No. 11

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Farm Safety Day Camps held in Santa Rosa and Clovis

Farmers’ Electric Cooperative recently had the privilege of participating in Progressive Agriculture Foundation’s Ag Safety Day Camps in Curry County, (Clovis), and Guadalupe County, (Santa Rosa). The Clovis day camp was a two day event with 3rd graders from the surrounding area attending. The Santa Rosa event, with area 3rd graders attending, was a one day event.

Farmers’ Electric personnel gave electrical safety demonstrations to the children with emphasis on power line contact and the associated risks.



Also covered in the demonstration was indoor electrical safety, electrical generation, transmission, and distribution. The kids also learned about professional linemen’s safety equipment and its uses.



Along with the electrical safety demonstration, the children were treated to other safety stations throughout the day such as, water safety, ATV safety, tractor safety, 911 / first aid, lawnmower safety, grain elevator safety, gun safety, fire safety, and snake awareness. These were all day events with the children receiving a hot dog, chips, milk, and ice cream bars for lunch.

Combined, the two events drew approximately 1,900 participants.

Farmers’ Electric will make itself available for any organization, civic group, or school to present these demonstrations, free of charge. Call the cooperative today, (1-800-445-8541), and ask to speak to someone in the Member Services Department.



Farmers’ Electric Cooperative will be closed Thursday, November 27, and Friday, November 28, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Crews will be on standby in case of outages or emergencies.

We wish you and yours a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

POWER TIP

To save energy this month, try lowering your water-heating costs. Water heating accounts for 14 to 25 percent of the energy your home consumes. Turn the water heater’s temperature to the “warm” setting, around 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will save energy – and help you save on your monthly bill.

Save ENERGY Save MONEY

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Manager's Message...



Lance Adkins, GM

Five-State Plan Endorsed

As an update to our June newsletter, there continues to be activity regarding the decision of United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to list the Lesser Prairie Chicken (LPC) as a “threatened” species. Readers may recall that for a number of years significant effort and funding from private individuals and companies have been working to preserve the natural resources necessary to support the LPC. These efforts culminated in a conservation plan developed by the Western Association of Fish and

Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) in cooperation with and support by private landowners, energy industry, and conservation groups. Commonly referred to as the “five-state plan”, named for the five states identified as the historic range of the LPC, included commitments of more than \$21 million for mitigation on more than 3.6 million acres for conservation of the LPC.

While we were very disappointed in the decision to list the LPC as threatened, we are pleased the USFWS has endorsed the five-state conservation plan and will allow conservation efforts to continue to be directed and implemented at the state level. For Farmers’ Electric (FEC) and other businesses and individuals working within the historic range of the LPC, an important provision of the Plan, referred to as the Section 4(d) Special Rule, will allow continued operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure without being subjected to potential litigation for disturbing the LPC. In addition, further infrastructure development is possible, though likely very expensive. We continue to have several active landowner associations in our service area working to develop wind and solar electric generation projects. Without the 4(d) rule, development of commercial-scale projects would likely be impossible, even on private land.

We are not the only group disappointed with the listing decision. Several special interest groups, including Defenders of Wildlife, Center for Biological Diversity and Wild Earth Guardians have jointly filed a lawsuit in Washington DC, because they feel the LPC should have received a finding of endangered, triggering more extensive con-

servation efforts and land use restrictions. Due to the cost of litigation, it would be virtually impossible for FEC to participate in this litigation to defend our ability to continue to provide electric service throughout

our service territory. Fortunately, we are not alone. FEC is a member of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) representing over 800 rural electric cooperatives across the United States. NRECA has filed to intervene in this specific case to defend inclusion of the 4(d) rule and oppose efforts to change the listing designation from threatened to endangered.



NRECA

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POWER SOURCE

is published monthly by Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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CONSERVATION *from* PAGE 2

Folks living in rural areas across the United States should be concerned about how this case plays out, as there are more than 200 species currently under review by USFWS through the Endangered Species Act, including several more in New Mexico.

It is difficult to gain significant political pressure to make changes to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) due the fact that the people with the greatest impact and cost for preserving a species live in rural areas with low population. We recently asked our congressional delegation to support four specific legislative proposals seeking balance between preserving native species without destroying economic opportunity and growth. While these proposals were not a complete solution, we felt they were a step in the right direction and supported by all electric cooperatives. Unfortunately, when the votes were counted in New Mexico, only Congressman Steve Pearce stood with electric cooperatives in support of these changes.

Stay tuned, we will continue to provide updates as they become available.

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Ask Wille!

Q. Willie, some of my dishes aren't clean when I unload the dishwasher in the morning. Do you have any suggestions that might help?

A. You could eat out and then you'd never have any dirty dishes. Of course that's not very practical or even wise. Seriously though, count the number of people who live in your house. That's the minimum number of different ways the dishwasher can get loaded. Here are some dishwashing guidelines you all might be able to agree on:

- Never load bronze, pewter, cast iron, or wood into the dishwasher. They don't hold up well under heat. Exposure to hot water, for example, can cause the wooden handle of a knife to split.
- When placing plates and bowls between the tines on a dishwasher rack, don't double them up – even if the machine is getting full. The manufacturer has measured the spacing between the tines so enough water can get between each dish to clean it adequately.
- Maximize your space by placing similar items together. Interspersing glassware with plates, for example, means fewer plates will fit.
- Long-handled spatulas, spoons, and other serving utensils go on the top rack, laid flat.
- If you're hand-washing wine glasses and the "good" plates, you might be doing unnecessary work. Check the box the pieces came in to learn if they're dishwasher safe.
- Break fewer glasses and cups by placing them along the sides of the top rack so they rest along the rack's outer "wall."
- If you use both stainless steel utensils and real sterling silverware, you can put them both in the dishwasher – but make sure they're far away from each other. Stainless steel knives and forks can dent the real silver.
- When you place forks in the silverware basket, alternate them so that some tines point up and some point down. They'll get cleaner that way.
- Place pots and pans on the bottom rack with the open side facing downward.
- As long as you leave enough space between dishes to allow the water to do its job, usually there's no need to pre-rinse them before loading them into the dishwasher.



Out with the Old, in with the New

By: Jason Lindsey

Candelario Caldera, who we all know as Ben around here, celebrated 35 years of service at Farmers' Electric Cooperative (FEC) last month. Tasked with his warehouse duties and maintenance, Ben has been utilizing this International Cub Cadet riding lawn mower for almost 30 of those 35 years. It was purchased in May of 1985 and it still looks as good as it did the day it was delivered. Ben mows the grass here at FEC two times a week for six to seven months out of the year. Each time he finishes, he gets towels and glass cleaner and details his baby, the lawn mower. The attention and maintenance he puts into the equipment he operates is the reason we can keep them for years after they have more than paid for themselves. I think it is safe to say that the mower has paid for itself over and over again in the past twenty nine and a half years.

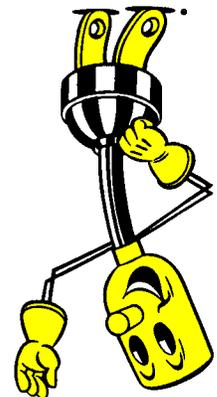


Ben posing with this new 2014 John Deere mower and his vintage 1985 International Harvester

Sadly, all good things must come to an end, and one day this past September, as I was watching Ben pull his mower up onto the lawn out of my office window, I remember thinking, "looks like Ben's mower is burning a little oil." Sure enough, the next time I looked out, the mower was stopped and Ben was taking a look under the hood. Ben wanted to get the old mower fixed but unfortunately, we couldn't find parts for it. A few days later I went back to the warehouse to see a brand new John Deere mower sitting in one of the truck bays. Ben was standing there looking at it and I asked him what he thought of it and he disgustedly said, "es muy cheap, puro plastico." He is right, they don't make things like they used to. Only time will tell if this one will last as long as the last. One thing I do know, Ben will do his darndest to keep it going as long as he can.

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