




North Central

Electric Cooperative, Inc

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 
The power of human connections®

350 Stump Pike Road | P.O. Box 475 | Attica, Ohio 44807
419-426-3072 or 1-800-426-3072
www.ncelec.org



Construction, maintenance projects

underway at cooperative for 2011

BY KIMBERLY GARDNER
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

WITH WARMER TEMPERATURES FINALLY ARRIVING, North Central Electric lines crews will be busy with preventive line maintenance projects across the service territory.

With nearly 34,500 poles supporting North Central's 1,775 miles of line, keeping lines in good working condition, clearing vegetation and keeping up with current electric industry technology is vital in maintaining reliability to the cooperative's 9,600 members.

North Central crews will focus on the following projects this summer:

Pole-testing

Each year North Central invests thousands of dollars in maintaining and improving lines throughout the service territory.

A vital part of the maintenance plan is pole-testing. Pole-testers travel the service territory surveying each pole to determine its condition. If a pole is considered unsafe — rotten, broken or overall unsafe — it is reported and designated for replacement. North Central will have 7,500 poles tested in 2011, costing the cooperative about \$40,000.

Pole-testing will take place in Adams, Thompson, Reed and Venice townships in Seneca County, Green Creek and York townships in Sandusky County and Lyme, Sherman, Norwich and Richmond townships in Huron County.

GPS surveying

In 2011, North Central is in the second phase of a six-phase field audit and GPS process, which locates all pole contacts and their corresponding Global Positioning System locations throughout the service territory. The cooperative has 34,500 poles. The cost of the process is \$40,000.

Tree-trimming

Trimming and removal of trees and vegetation is very important to the reliability of the North Central lines. Clearing vegetation around the cooperative's lines reduces outages and blinks caused by trees and vegetation that contact lines during storms and high winds.

Throughout 2011, North Central plans to spend upwards of \$175,000 for tree trimming. Right-of-way work will be centered in Sycamore, Seneca, Bascom and Carey substation areas. North Central has contracted with Charlie's Tree Service of Chatfield for this year's right-of-way work.

Meter Changeout

North Central is well into its first year of a three-to four-year meter changeout program. The cooperative is converting 8,300 self-read meters to Advanced Metering Equipment, which automatically downloads monthly use data and reports it back to the cooperative via the electric lines. Meter technicians are finishing up exchanges in townships served by the Bascom substation. They are finishing in Loudon Township and then will focus on Hopewell and Big Springs before moving into Crawford Township in Wyandot County.

The Advanced Metering Equipment technology improves billing accuracy, monitors voltage and system blinks and identifies power quality issues as well as assists with billing questions. The new meters are critical to implementing the cooperative's Time of Day rate. (See story on page 24) Once the new meter is installed, members will no longer have to read their meter and submit monthly meter readings.

(Continued on page 24)

Time of Day summer rate in effect

May 16th

SUMMER HOURS FOR THOSE MEMBERS ON the Time of Day rate will go into effect May 16. Members on the TOD rate include those who have had a new digital meter with the “Turtle®” device installed **AND** have received a letter, including a magnet, from North Central notifying them of the conversion to the TOD rate.

The cooperative instituted the TOD rate last fall for residential consumers in conjunction with the full deployment of new advanced digital meters. The cooperative expects it will take another two to three years before all residential consumers are converted to the new meters.

Summer on-peak hours are from 2 to 10 p.m. weekdays. All weekends and summer holidays including Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day are considered off-peak. The summer TOD rate schedule will apply from May 16 to Sept. 15.

Through the three- to four-year meter conversion process, the cooperative designed the TOD rate to be “revenue neutral” since some members will be on the standard rate while others are on the new TOD rate. During the conversion period, there will be a 1-cent difference between on-peak and off-peak hours. On average, residential members use about 70 percent of their power during off-peak hours.

After the meter installation period, the difference between the rates for off-peak and on-peak kWhs will gradually increase to between 3 and 4 cents.

Once the new Turtle meters are installed, members will no longer have to read their meter and submit monthly meter readings. Each day, the Turtle meters send electric consumption data over the electric lines to an office computer. The new meters improve billing accuracy, monitors voltage and system blinks and helps identify power quality issues.

Before converting to the new rate, members will be notified by the cooperative via letter approximately two weeks before the rate is implemented. Members are currently being switched over by substation each month. Nearly 1,675 North Central members being served by the Bascom, Carey, Flat Rock, Hinesville, Jackson and Risingsun substations have been converted to the TOD rate as of March.

Each month, the power bill from North Central’s supplier, Buckeye Power, is calculated based on the five highest peak hours for the month. The cooperative has no way of knowing exactly when those peak hours will occur each month. However, the cooperative has plenty of data to show which hours those peaks will likely occur. The on-peak versus off-peak hours listed in the TOD rate schedule is based upon this data.



Summer Hours May 16 to September 15

ON-PEAK HOURS

2 - 10 p.m. MONDAY - FRIDAY

OFF-PEAK HOURS

ALL DAY SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS
MEMORIAL DAY, INDEPENDENCE DAY AND LABOR DAY
ALL OTHER HOURS NOT LISTED ABOVE

Construction, maintenance projects

(Continued from page 23)

Construction Projects

As a cost-cutting measure, North Central will not utilize contractors in 2011 to rebuild lines. Instead, North Central crews continue to replace and rebuild aging single-phase lines and poles throughout the service territory with a main focus on Seneca County. Crews will also be focusing on a three-phase line project north of Bascom substation along T.R. 101. The line crews have time to do this since the number of new services being added has declined due to the recession.

All of these construction and maintenance projects allow North Central to effectively accomplish its mission to provide safe and reliable power at affordable rates. North Central truly believes that the cheapest form of maintenance is preventive maintenance.

Members can stay updated on where maintenance and construction projects will be occurring by visiting the cooperative’s website at www.ncelec.org and view the News Center.

**North Central
will be closed
Monday, May 30,
in observance of
Memorial Day**



Slate set for annual meeting

board of trustees elections

NORTH CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS attending the Tuesday, June 14, annual meeting will be considering three district races for the board of trustees.

In accordance with the cooperative's Code of Regulations, the candidates were selected by a nominating committee consisting of member-owners and cooperative board members who are not seeking election in 2011. Board members are elected to serve a three-year term by district each year at the cooperative's annual meeting.

In District 1, incumbent Kevin Bishop of Chatfield Township will face Sharon Sheibley of Cranberry Township. District 1 includes the townships

served by the cooperative in Crawford and Richland counties.

In District 2, Eric Goodman of Sycamore Township will challenge incumbent Dennis Schindler of Crane Township. District 2 covers the townships served by North Central in Wyandot County.

In District 3, incumbent Richard Reichert will be challenged by Douglas Utz, both of Venice Township. District 3 covers Reed, Thompson and Venice townships in Seneca County; Lyme, Norwich, Richmond and Sherman townships in Huron County and York Township in Sandusky County.

The June issue of *Country Living* will provide biographical sketches of each of the candidates.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

75TH ANNUAL MEETING

NORTH CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2011

SENECA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, TIFFIN, OH

- Watch the June edition of *Country Living* magazine for candidate profiles and additional annual meeting information.
- Be on the lookout for your registration card with your June electric bill.

REGISTRATION: 4:30 P.M. — DINNER: 4:30 P.M. — BUSINESS MEETING: 6:30 P.M.

Participate in the cooperative you own. Meeting will feature the election of three trustees, management reports, wellness displays, member business displays, special gifts and door prizes.

Scholarship

WINNERS

EACH YEAR, NORTH CENTRAL ELECTRIC offers high school seniors whose parents or guardians are North Central member-owners the opportunity to vie for a college scholarship. Applicants must submit an application and the top five boys and girls must complete an essay explaining how their community benefits from being served by an electric cooperative. The top five boys and girls are then interviewed by an independent panel of judges. The judges base their scores on the students' academics, community and school involvement, poise, personality and cooperative knowledge. The \$2,500 scholarship recipients are eligible to earn up to an additional \$2,810 scholarship from the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives competition in May.

\$2,500 Winners



Jacob Ruffing, 18, of Seneca East High School, is the son of Dennis and Diana Ruffing of Republic. He is a member of the National Honor Society where he serves as secretary and student council vice president. He is also involved in FFA, varsity cross country and track, Attica Junior Fair Board and the Seneca County Cattleman's Association. In the fall, Jacob plans on majoring in animal science/pre-vet at The Ohio State University.

.....

Kylie Mathias, 17, of New Riegel High School, is the daughter of Paul and Nancy Mathias of New Riegel. She is a member of the NHS, where she serves as secretary, Language Club and Quiz Bowl. She is also involved in Yearbook as senior editor, basketball, where she served as a co-captain, and softball. Kylie plans on attending the University of Findlay where she will major in physical therapy.



\$1,500 Winners



Jarron Theis, 18, of Seneca East High School, is the son of Michael and Carol Theis. He is a member of the NHS, Students Against Destructive Decisions and the Principal's Roll. He is also active in varsity golf and basketball as team captain and varsity baseball. In the fall he plans on studying criminal justice and majoring in math at Lake Erie College or Tiffin University.

.....

Alexandra Woods, 17, of Carey High School, is the daughter of Scott and Tonia Woods of Carey. She serves as president of the NHS, is student council president, and a member of the drama club and the honor roll. She was cheerleading co-captain for football and basketball, and also active in marching band and quiz bowl. Alexandra plans on attending the University of Akron where she will study biology/pre-med.



Touchstone Energy® \$1,000 scholarship winner



Allison Wentling, 17, of Carey High School, is the daughter of Todd and Dawn Wentling of Carey. She is a member of the NHS, Distributive Education Clubs of America and the Challengers 4-H Club. She is also involved as a youth volunteer for Carey Kiwanis Fall Festival and Dorcas Carey Public Library Summer Fun Day. Allison plans on attending Bowling Green State University majoring in special needs education.

The \$1,000 Touchstone Energy scholarship was created to reward students who have committed themselves to the pursuit of a college education despite hardships that may have affected them.

Allison has the opportunity to receive an additional scholarship at the statewide competition in May.

EPA and your electric bill

BY TERRY MAZZONE, CCC
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS



Terry Mazzone, CCC

OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, Congress debated, but never passed, a comprehensive climate change bill. Because we are concerned about protecting your pocketbook, we thank our members for supporting their cooperative in this effort. Together, we sent our share of e-mail messages and letters to our Congressman and Senators through the “Our Energy, Our Future” campaign.

Into this void, the Environmental Protection Agency has stepped forward and has now fielded a team of new regulations. Out of these “players,” three could hit electric bills out of the park.

- **Clean Air Transport Rule:** This rule kicks in next year and aims to cap power plant emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from state to state between Ohio, 30 other eastern states and the District of Columbia. By 2014, EPA claims the rule, when combined with other state and federal measures (such as Maximum Achievable Control Technology, or MACT, rules for mercury emissions), will reduce sulfur dioxide emissions from power plants by 71 percent and nitrogen oxides emissions by 52 percent from 2005 levels, but it will cost utilities \$2.8 billion every year to comply.

- **Cooling Water Intake Requirements:** Power plants use water from lakes or rivers to cool generating equipment. That’s the case with our Cardinal Generating Station in Brilliant along the Ohio River. While screens and various components prevent fish and other wildlife from entering water intake pipes, EPA thinks this equipment could be improved. We are

expecting a rule proposal soon that could cause a severe impact. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the nation’s bulk power grid watchdog, claims if this rule is strictly enforced, one-third of U.S. electricity capacity may need to be retired.

- **Coal Ash:** To ensure the safe disposal of fly ash and other residues (bottom ash, scrubber sludge and slag) produced by coal-fired power plants (known as coal combustion residuals, or CCRs), EPA is considering whether to designate the materials — for the first time — as hazardous waste. Complying with this rule could cost billions and would also halt recycling efforts. Right now we use one-third of all fly ash as a Portland cement substitute — and for every ton of concrete replaced by fly ash, a ton of greenhouse gas emissions is avoided.

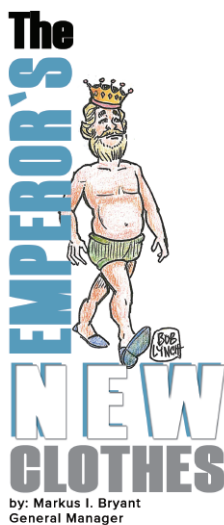
On four prior occasions — most recently under the Clinton Administration in 2000 — EPA determined CCRs do not warrant regulation as a hazardous waste. Not only did EPA find CCRs rarely, if ever, exhibit a hazardous waste characteristic, the agency also concluded states can safely manage CCRs under federal non-hazardous waste rules.

North Central Electric is committed to keeping its membership informed about government regulations that will increase the cost of electricity. We are joining cooperatives nationally to ask Congress for a much-needed time-out — a two-year moratorium on EPA regulation of carbon dioxide greenhouse gases. A delay would give lawmakers the opportunity to fashion climate change legislation that protects you, our consumers, and keeps electric bills affordable.



Looking Out for You

We’re working together to keep your electric bills affordable. We’re controlling costs through innovation. And we’re continuing to put you, our members, first. No matter what the future brings, one thing is certain. We’re Looking Out for You.



PART 8 – WIND POWER - “DECIDING WHAT IS FEASIBLE”

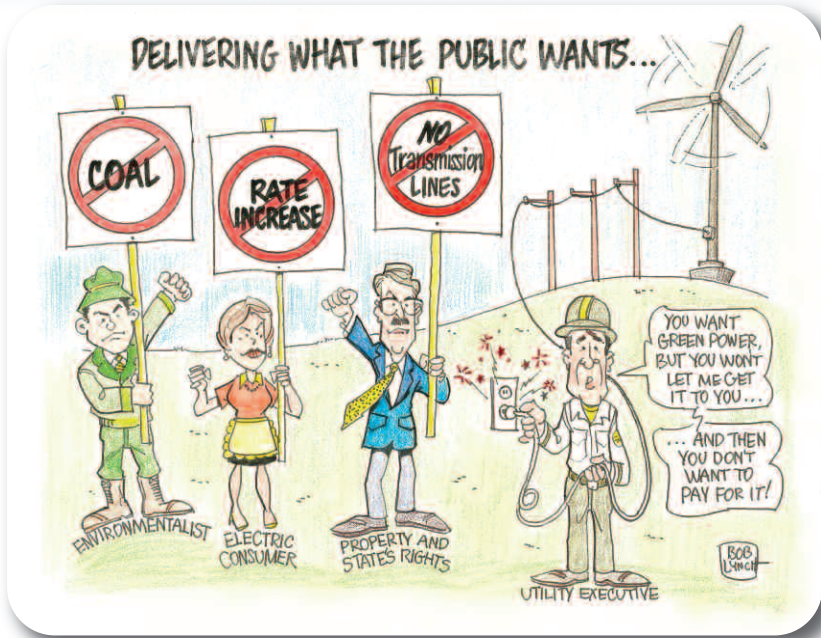
If you have been following my columns, you might be tempted to think that I'm anti-wind power. I assure you that I'm not! However, your board has entrusted me with your cooperative's mission, which is to supply you with highly reliable electric service at an affordable cost. I also serve as a trustee on the board of Buckeye Power, whose mission is to supply your cooperative with stably and competitively priced, economical and highly reliable wholesale power.

In these two roles, I am responsible for making recommendations to your board and for approving recommendations made to the Buckeye Power board by its management. In both cases, I must consider the four tests laid out in my first column: Is it affordable, reliable, fair and achievable? Wind power, like any other source of generation, has real operational and economic issues which must be evaluated. I have tried to share some of these issues with you. It is my job to look beyond wishful thinking which is often disguised as “public policy.”

I am very positive about the capabilities of the American people. After all, we sent men to the moon, and invented much of the world's modern technology. We can accomplish anything, IF, 1) we can agree on the goal and 2) are willing to spend the money (It seems we can print that too). For electric industry decision makers, it really boils down to two questions: 1) What can be done? and, 2) How much will it cost? This month's column tries to address these two questions.

All power sources need grid access

I voted enthusiastically for Buckeye's 30 MW participation in the Story County, Iowa, wind farm project. This project looked feasible because central Iowa is in a “red” area for wind intensity (see Part 6 – Figure 1). The projected cost after the federal wind tax credit was 5 cents per kWh for energy and .6 cents per kWh for transmission service. The 5.6 cents per kWh compares favorably with Buckeye's current 6.2 cents cost, projected to rise to about 7.2 cents when the last coal plant scrubbers are completed in 2013. I believe (still do) this project was im-



portant because the cost was reasonable and the Ohio cooperatives needed experience with wind energy. What we learned is we have to pay an additional 3 cents per kWh for transmission “congestion” charges. The real cost per kWh for this wind project turned out to be 8.6 cents per kWh.

Figure 1 is a simple illustration of transmission grid operation. The amount of energy demanded must be matched by the amount of energy produced, provided the transmission line between them is adequately sized. Transmission “congestion” occurs whenever there is a mismatch between power production and demand and/or an inadequately sized transmission line. For example, assume the power generated is equal to the power demanded, but the transmission line capacity is too small. The transmission grid assesses a “congestion” charge. Another example is there is plenty of power generated (such as wind power at night), but there is not enough power demand to use all of the energy. In this case the transmission grid must choose between paying another generator (usually gas or coal fired) to reduce their amount generated or tell the wind generators to go off-line. Either decision results in higher transmission “congestion” costs. This “congestion” issue is what occurs at the Story County wind project.

The better solution to transmission “congestion” is to build more transmission lines, either where line capacity is limited, or where lines are needed to move the power further distances to where there is more energy demand. Remember, the EPRI study looked at “utility-scale” sites within a reasonable distance from transmission lines. This is because for every area considered for wind generation, there is a physical limit to the amount of wind generation (or any other kind of generation) that can be added before the transmission “congestion” problem develops. This is a hard business reality in the electric industry regardless of

Figure 1 — Balancing the Transmission Grid



any “public policy” goal of 20 to 30 percent plus renewables by any chosen target date.

Figure 2 illustrates the biggest challenge to integrating renewables into the nation’s electric grid. Note that wind resources are concentrated in the Northwest Central region of the country which the EPRI study clearly identified as the best areas for wind development. Figure 2 identifies the desert Southwestern U.S. as the best area for solar energy development and the Western states as the best area for geothermal power production. The inescapable fact is all three best areas of the country for renewable energy development are in the least populated areas (and outside of Ohio except for Lake Erie) AND there is both insufficient power demand in those areas to use all the renewable energy that could be developed AND insufficient transmission line capacity available to move the excess power to where it could be used, primarily the industrial heartland states and coastal cities. This lack of transmission capacity is in addition to the back-up generation issues covered in last month’s column. Therefore, evaluating wind power feasibility also necessitates evaluating the availability and cost of transmission capacity.

What will it cost?

Figure 3 is taken from the EPRI study analyzing the wind energy potential supply curve for the whole U.S. Please note that 50 percent of this total U.S. potential wind energy is in the NW central states discussed in last month’s column. Potential wind energy is measured in tWh (terawatt hours). 2008 U.S. energy production was 3.97

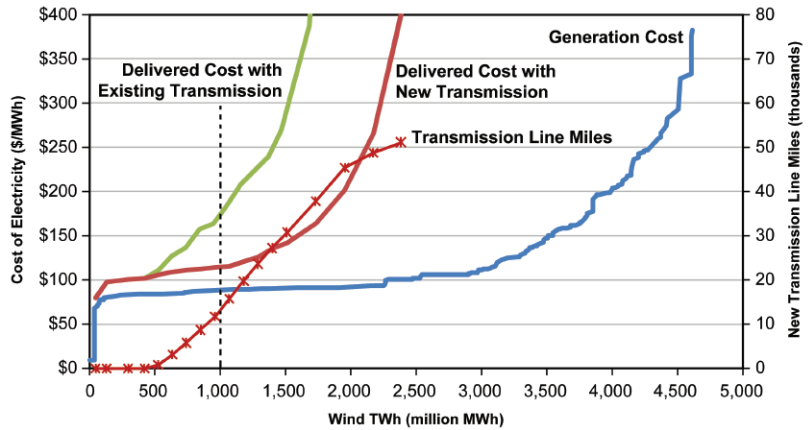
trillion kWh or 3,870 tWh. Therefore, 20 percent of U.S. energy production is roughly 1,000 tWh represented by the vertical black dashed line. Twenty-five percent was chosen since it is a goal often used for a future percentage of renewable energy to total electricity supply. Notice the blue line for only wind generation costs stays fairly steady at 8-9 cents per kWh up to 1,000 tWh, rises to 10 cents per kWh at 2,500 tWh, and then rises dramatically. This is because the better and more economical wind resources are used first.

Therefore, we could develop 12.5 percent, or 500 tWh, of our country’s electricity supply with wind without a major investment in new transmission. This might be a realistic goal, IF we also take the steps to manage the intermittent supply impact on the grid discussed in last month’s column. One estimate of back up generation cost to stabilize the grid to manage wind power is an additional 2-3 cents per kWh to the costs shown in the EPRI study.

The green line represents the cost of wind generation plus transmission costs for the existing grid system. Note that total cost stays stable at 10 cents per kWh until 500 tWh or about 12.5 percent of U.S. electricity production.

After 500 tWh, the green line rises dramatically due to “congestion” issues discussed previously. The only way to reduce these costs is to build additional transmission line capacity. The miles of transmission line needed is shown by the red “asterisked” line, while the total wind generation cost with new

Figure 3 — National Wind Energy Potential Supply Curve (Including transmission costs)



Source: Electric Power Research Institute Preliminary Insites from EPRI’s Regional Model, Bryan Hannegan, Ph.D.

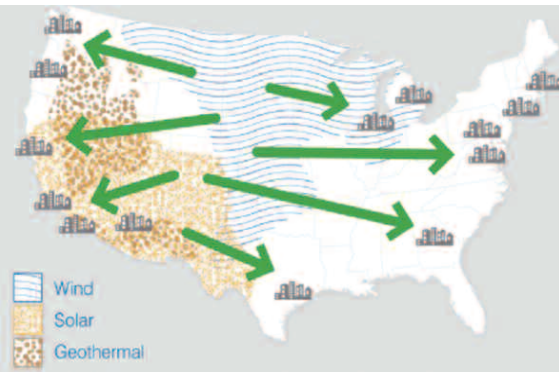
transmission line investment is shown by the red line. In this scenario, costs are relatively stable at about 11-12 cents per kWh until you reach 1,000 tWh. Thereafter, costs begin to escalate dramatically because increasing transmission investment is required.

Will it happen?

If our wind power goal is 25 percent, or 1,000 tWh, of our country’s electricity supply, then per the EPRI study, we will need to commit to the following: 1) construction of 175,000 1.5 MW wind turbines costing \$650 billion, AND 2) construction of 19 new extra high voltage transmission lines, 13,000 miles in length, costing \$50 billion.

Wind power development of this magnitude simply will not happen without a concerted national effort coupled with changes in transmission siting authority and eminent domain laws at the federal level. Today, most transmission siting occurs at the state or local level. If you think getting regulatory approval for a new power plant is difficult, (wind farms included), just trying building a major transmission line across one or more state lines. Do you really think this will happen just to develop intermittent wind power at 10-13 cents per kWh versus 9.5 cents from a new combined cycle natural gas-fired plant or 10.2 cents from a new coal-fired plant? Probably not. However there are additional reasons for a national effort to upgrade and expand the

Figure 2 — Renewable Energy Location Versus Areas Needed



Source: Green Superhighway: Overhauling the Grid to Accommodate Renewables <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/>

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Richard L. Reichert, President.....District 3
 Dennis W. Schindler, Vice President.....District 2
 Duane E. Frankart, Treasurer.....District 7
 Eileen M. Gabel, Secretary.....District 6
 Donald L. Willson, Trustee.....District 2
 Rodney Snavelly, Trustee.....District 4
 Kevin E. Bishop, Trustee.....District 1
 Donald E. Strausbaugh, Trustee.....District 1
 Ronald P. Frisch, Trustee.....District 5

GENERAL MANAGER

Markus I. Bryant

LOCAL PAGES EDITORS

Terry F. Mazzone, CCC
 Kimberly A. Gardner - Communications Specialist

BILL PAYMENT STATIONS

Bascom Telephone Co — Bascom
 First Bank — Bloomville
 Commercial Savings Bank — Carey
 First Citizens National Bank — Carey
 First Citizens Bank — Chatfield, New Washington & Tiro
 First Federal Savings and Loan — New Washington
 First National Bank — McCutchenville & Sycamore
 Tiffin Farmers Co-op — Tiffin
 Discount Drug Mart — Upper Sandusky & Willard
 Rock Run Bulk Foods — Tiffin

OFFICE HOURS

7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Weekdays

24-hour Night Depository Access

Fee, rate, discount schedules available on request

Bills due 15th of month

North Central Electric Cooperative

350 Stump Pike Road
 P.O. Box 475
 Attica, Ohio 44807-0475
 Office and Trouble Calls:
 419-426-3072
 Toll-Free: 1-800-426-3072
 Telefax: 419-426-1245
 www.ncelec.org
 E-mail: nce@fesco-oh.org



Members' Marketplace

buy • sell • trade

The Members' Marketplace is a free service to North Central Electric Cooperative members. Ads must be submitted **IN WRITING** to the cooperative office by the 30th of the month and will be printed on a first-come, first-served basis as long as space is available. Due to space limitations, new submissions will be given priority over duplicate submissions.

For Sale

- Quality, registered alpacas. Halter trained and easily managed. Great for pets, 4-H, fiber or show — \$200 and up. RAW FIBER available for spinners, weavers, fiber arts. Purchase by the ounce or pound. Also: Complete line of men and women's ALPACA clothing & accessories. 419-443-8486 or aja@amyjshomestead.com.
- Laying hens. 419-983-6191
- First cutting alfalfa, large round bales; Second cutting alfalfa, small square bales; 2000 Freightliner FL70 automatic Cat Diesel Cab and Chassis. H: 419-706-0777 C: 419-483-6214
- Firewood, you haul; 70-colonial wood spindles; 225 3/8" OSB boards 10.5"x13.5". 419-937-1690
- 1978 ¾ ton truck, farm use, needs work - \$500; Cap for ½ ton Chevy truck, full size — \$50. 419-927-4967
- Nice 2 story home on 9 acres. Garage, old barn. ¼ mile off St. Rte. 4 N. Buckeye Central school. 419-562-2666.
- Cub Cadet 1541 w/46 in. mower, snow blower, wheel weights and tire chains; 1998 Ford Ranger 4x2 regular cab XLT with ARE cap, bright red. 419-447-3053
- 25' Glenco Soil Finisher — \$3,000; 30' JD field cultivator — \$2,500; 20' AC N-320 Flex grainhead — 2,500; 14 8' concrete gestation feed troughs — \$30 each. 419-619-3172
- 1-LT23R16 tire — \$15; new Yardman snowblower — \$90; magazine rack — \$20; rubber ¾ ton truck bed mat — \$10; 4-20.5x7.5/13 tires — \$25. 419-492-2545
- Harmony rimline double blade kayak paddle — \$50; men's wetsuit — \$50; men's

- inline skates — \$20; Wilson wood tennis rackets \$10 each or 2 for \$15. 419-937-2390
- 1992 Harley Davidson 1200 Sportster Classic, 34,000 miles — \$4,000. 419-447-5274
- Mori Lee prom dress, grey with beads and sequins, size 10 — \$150 O.B.O.; Navy blue dress with sequins, beads and sheer jacket, size 8 — \$25. 567-224-5933 Leave message.
- 1989 Chevy dump truck, CAT 3208, Fuller transmission, 14.5 ton, legal road. Approx. 25,000 miles on new engine — \$9,800 OBO 419-639-9227
- Books: paperback and hard backs, authors: Sandra Brown, Mary Higgins Clark, James Patterson, Karen Robards and Nora Roberts — 50¢ - \$1 each; Plus size nursing uniform tops all colors — \$2 each. Some new. 419-492-2645
- Red 2007 F-150 4x4 SuperCab, silver with tow package and Line-X bed liner, 33,000 miles — asking \$20,000. 419-639-3180
- 1995 21-ft. fiberglass motor coach — \$15,000 OBO 419-927-6965
- DeVilbiss, 6,000 watt portable generator, electric start, circuit breaker protection and full power selection switch — \$500. 419-483-6110
- New Idea 2 row PTO ear corn picker, 30" rows. Works good — \$1,100. 419-483-6829
- 1950 International Super M — \$2,500; 2-bottom plow w/ 2-pt hitch — \$500; TSC disk, 63 inch, New — \$500; grain drill — \$250; 1949 Ford truck, does not run — \$500. 419-927-4963
- 1996 STARCRAFT 25; 5th-wheel camper. Awning, clean — \$5,000. 419-927-9453
- 4340 3-bottom oliver plow; 11'x6" Oliver disk; 12'

- Oliver springtooth; 13'x7" Oliver drill; 12' Dunham packer; 12' harrowgator. 419-983-4515
- 18-7 INT. 5100 grain drill — \$500; Gleaner K combine w/ 12' grain header — \$1,100; Oliver 1955 diesel w/cab and duals. 419-618-4924

Free

- 4-year-old male pure bred Weimaraner dog and cage free to good home, good for breeding, no papers. 419-310-3923

For Rent

- Apartments in Tiffin. 419-927-9582
- Inside storage space, for any size boat, camper, car, motorcycle, trailers or garage space rental. 419-639-9227
- Cabin in Smoky Mountains. Three bedroom, two and half bath, located within one mile from downtown Gatlinburg, adjacent to the national park. Great views of Mt. Leconte, hot tub on deck, please call Wendy for details. 740-360-8757 or www.bearviewchalet.info.

Wanted

- Locust post or Osage orange fence post. 419-983-6191

May is...

Electrical Safety Month

In an effort to keep people safe all year round, National Electrical Safety Month is recognized in May. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) has come up with a month-long plan to help keep people safe around something that has become such an important part of everyday life.

“Modern homes run on electricity, but if you don’t properly maintain your electrical products, they can create hazards,” warned ESFI president Brett Brenner. “The good news is that eliminating electrical hazards from your home doesn’t have to be difficult or expensive.”

In the U.S., home electrical problems annually cause more than 51,000 fires, resulting in more than 490 deaths, 1,400 injuries and \$1.3 billion in property damage, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Statistics from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission show that nearly 400 people are electrocuted in the United States each year.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International sponsors National Electrical Safety Month (NESM) each May to increase public awareness of the electrical hazards around us at home, work, school and play. This year’s campaign challenges people across the country to evaluate the electrical safety of their homes, learning more about their electrical systems and devices in the process.

New resources featured in ESFI’s 2011 National Electrical Safety Month Toolkit, such as the Home Electrical Safety Challenge, have been designed to teach people of all ages to identify and correct potential electrical hazards before a more serious situation can result. This complimentary 2011 NESM Toolkit can be downloaded on the Foundation’s website at www.electrical-safety.org.



This year, ESFI is focusing on the electrical safety of a different area of the home each week during May:

Cooking Up Safety in the Kitchen (May 2–6): The kitchen is where families gather to cook favorite recipes, share warm meals and reconnect with each other, but it’s also the location where two-thirds of all home fires start. Identify and eliminate potential hazards in the kitchen before someone gets hurt.

Plug into Safety in the Family Room (May 9–13): The family room is an area of the home where many people go to unwind, but there are often many electrical appliances and devices in use in this area. Learn to recognize electrical hazards that can exist in common areas of the home.

Wake Up to Safety in the Bedroom (May 16–20): The average adult sleeps almost eight hours per night, spending at least one-third of every day in their bedroom. Take steps to make sure the bedroom is safe — you’ll sleep better!

Build a Foundation of Safety in the Basement (May 23–27): Heating equipment and electrical distribution systems are two of the leading causes of home fires. Help keep the home safe by learning the basics of how these systems work and making sure they are properly maintained.

Energy Saving Tip of the Month



From Your Energy Advisor
Scott Carbary



This month's tip: Sealing manufactured homes air leaks

If energy bills for your manufactured home seem too high, the likely culprits are air leaks. Here are some tips from North Central Electric that can help you stop leaks from your home — and your wallet.

Older manufactured homes, especially those built before 1994, may be plagued by leaking ducts and inadequate insulation. Leaky ductwork can reduce the efficiency of your heating and cooling system by as much as 20 percent. A good time to check for leaks is on a windy day, when you'll be able to find drafty spots.

Experts recommend going after big leaks first. That means plugging all holes around chimneys, vents, water pipes and heating system ductwork. Seal any duct leaks with mastic. Avoid the use of duct tape, which can dry out and disintegrate when used. Adding insulation to floor, walls and ceiling cavities can improve energy efficiency, but may be a job for a professional contractor.

Once you've sealed major leaks, look for smaller ones — around windows, doors, electrical outlets and light switches. Seal gaps around windows and doors, using caulk on non-moving parts. And replace any worn weatherstripping.

Caulk or expanding spray foam are perfect in spots where plumbing, wiring, vents and ducting penetrate through walls. Installing foam outlet gaskets behind electrical outlets and light switches — especially on outside walls — can save energy, too.

For safety's sake, make sure that all combustion appliances, such as furnaces, stoves and water heaters, are properly vented.

For other tips on how to save energy — and money — visit www.ncelec.org and click on the Together We Save icon, or contact the member services department.



Quick TIP

Electronics account for 8.1 percent of your home's energy use. Cut costs by plugging items into a power strip, and turning the strip off when not in use. "Smart" power strips are another good option — when one master device like a TV is turned off, it cuts power to other selected items (DVD players, gaming consoles, stereos, etc.).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Chatfield Township farm home to a different kind of work dog

You've heard about dogs that have to earn their keep. Seeing-eye dogs, herding dogs, watch dogs, therapy dogs, assistance dogs and hunting dogs are all popular types of working dogs. However, there is a lesser known type that is now being raised by the Diesch family of rural Bloomville — livestock guardian dogs.

The Diesch family chose the Anatolian Shepherd breed to guard their goats from coyotes and wild dogs more than four years ago. Anatolian Shepherd's originated in Turkey, where their job was to guard sheep and goat flocks from wolves. They were brought to the United States in the '70s where they have since been very successful guarding against coyotes, mountain lions, wild dogs, bears, wolves and cougars. Introduced and bonded as puppies, Anatolian Shepherds can also be used as family guardians, because of their instinct to guard their pack.

"Purchasing an Anatolian Shepherd has been the best investment in our meat goat operation I've made," said Dave Diesch.

Since the Diesches purchased Ike, a male Anatolian Shepherd now 6 years old, they have not suffered a loss of livestock due to predators. With more than 50 goats roaming their 15 acres of pasture surrounded by woods in a very rural area, it is not a claim the Diesches make without giving full credit to Ike.

"Ike lives, eats, sleeps and plays with the goats he guards. He is not a herding dog, he bonded with the goats and they become his pack to protect and take care of," Dave said.

After the Diesches success and satisfaction with Ike, they began looking for a female companion and second dog to guard goats in a different pasture. Following an extensive search, the nearest breeder was located in central Kentucky.

Last Memorial Day, Ellie, a fe-

male Anatolian Shepherd, joined the Diesches goat operation. "It's been fun to watch her grow up, she is much more of a people dog than Ike," said Beth Diesch. Ike has had a lot of fun with her too. They can often be seen romping in the grass, laying in the shade together or sitting on their lookouts watching different directions.

"She has brought out a playful side of Ike that we hadn't seen for a long time." Beth said, "Our three two-legged kids love playing with her, too!"

Anatolian Shepherds are not aggressive guard dogs, they are defensive guard dogs. They guard by marking their territory with a serious loud warning bark, their intimidating size, being watchful and positioning themselves between the herd and the predator. Only after all defensive options have been exhausted will the Anatolian Shepherd become aggressive and may attack said the Diesches.

This independent thinking and ability to choose their own actions after evaluating the threat makes them a challenge for some owners, as they often do as they think is best. "If Ike or Ellie are barking at a threat when you call them, they may not come. It's not because they didn't hear you, it's because they don't trust the threat enough to leave their pack unguarded," Dave said.

The Diesches really enjoy educating others about Anatolian Shepherds, as livestock guard dogs. After having to travel out of state to find a puppy, they decided to breed Ike and Ellie and offer this type of working dog to Ohio's farms and families. Ellie gave birth to a litter of puppies in January.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Anatolian Shepherd breed can contact the Diesches at 419-284-3316.



Ike can be found guarding the goat herd all throughout the day, even during feeding time.



Madalyn Diesch holds one of Ellie's six puppies at five weeks old.



Looking Back at 75 Years of North Central Electric Cooperative

GENERAL MANAGERS THROUGH THE YEARS

THE FIRST GENERAL MANAGER of North Central Electric Cooperative was Ralph J. "R.J." Williams. During the years Williams was manager, North Central grew from a cooperative distributing electricity from only one substation in eastern Seneca County, to a large rural distribution area serving parts of eight counties from nine substations. His leadership helped the cooperative win a plaque from the State Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives for having the lowest kWh retail rate in Ohio.

A true pioneer in the rural electric movement, Williams devoted his life to bringing low-cost power to the rural people. Williams served as the cooperative's manager from 1937 until his retirement in May 1963.

Henry H. Cook was the second manager of North Central. Cook started his employment with the cooperative in 1943. In 1963, Cook accepted the position of general manager following the retirement of Williams. In the time frame of his employment, he directed and saw the cooperative expand from 2,861 members with 916 miles of line, to 7,070 members and 1,299 miles of energized line.

Robert Daryl Kurtz was employed by North Central in 1960. He was appointed general manager in 1978 and served as manager until January 1985.

In 1978, Kurtz had a power requirement study completed. In 1979 and 1980 work plans were ready to begin construction, and in 1981 and 1982 plans

were in progress. In those years, North Central built 90 plus miles of three-phase line, two new substations — Jackson substation and Republic substation — and the New Washington substation was rebuilt and upgraded at the same site, all at a total cost of approximately \$3 million. North Central now has 11 substations and one metering station.

Kurtz served on many Ohio Rural Electric boards and committees including Buckeye Power, Inc., and as president of the Ohio Manager's Association.

Fred A. Shatzer, Sr., was appointed by the Board of Trustees as general manager in January 1985.

Shatzer began his employment with North Central in July 1981 as a staff assistant manager. Prior to that time, he was with Whitley County Rural Electric Membership Cooperative in Columbia City, Ind., for 12 years. Shatzer served as general manager until 1998.

Markus I. Bryant was appointed by the board of trustees as general manager in January 1998.

As the era of electric deregulation was about to begin, North Central and Lorain-Medina Rural Electric Cooperative of Wellington formed a management and shared services cooperative called FESCO (Federated Energy Services Cooperative). In essence, one management team continues to operate two electric cooperatives, sharing personnel and resources.

Henry H. Cook
1963 - 1978

Fred A. Schatzer
1985 - 1998

Ralph J. Williams
1937 - 1963

Robert D. Kurtz
1978 - 1985

Markus I. Bryant
1998 - present