

**DSO ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

DSO
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

HEADLINER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sheila Hummel Hope, President	Colton Droge Assaria, Director
Randy Cooper Gypsum, Vice President	Ken Hedberg Marquette, Director
David Butler Junction City, Secretary	David Mueller Tampa, Director
Kenneth Berry Minneapolis, Director	Mike Richards Solomon, Director
James Christopher Falun, Director	

STAFF

Timothy J. Power CEO	Marla Marshall CFO
Nick Peterson Operations Manager	Derrick Rutherford Communications Manager

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday

PAYMENT LOCATIONS

**CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK IN
WALMART SUPERCENTER**
521 E. Chestnut St., Junction City, KS 66441
FARMERS STATE BANK
447 Harrison, Lindsborg, KS 67456

OUTAGE INFORMATION

**IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE, CALL
800-376-3533.** After-hours calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to standby personnel.

FIND OUT MORE

 facebook.com/DSOElectricCooperative
 @DSOElectricCoop

Let's Talk Capital Credits

BY MARLA MARSHALL, CFO

WHAT ARE CAPITAL CREDITS?

As a member of DSO Electric Cooperative (DSO), you are a part-owner of the cooperative. At the end of each year, any money left over after all bills have been paid is considered margin. Your capital credits are your proportionate share of the margin generated each year (based on your usage).

WHAT ARE CAPITAL CREDITS ALLOCATIONS?

Allocations are your share of the margin, as described above. You are made aware of your share with an allocation notice every spring. Your allocations accumulate and increase each year with new allocations and they decrease when DSO pays you (retires) capital credits. Allocation notices for the 2025 capital credits were mailed at the end of May 2026.

WHAT ARE CAPITAL CREDITS RETIREMENTS?

Capital credits retirements are the

actual money returned to you by the cooperative. Though the margins are allocated to our members, the actual money is initially reinvested into the cooperative for a period of years as a source of working capital used to maintain and improve the infrastructure. This reinvestment helps to keep energy rates at a competitive level by reducing the amount of funds that must be borrowed. Cooperative infrastructure, on average, has a useful life of 30 years, so in most cases, capital credits are returned (retired) within 30 years of when they were earned.

Primarily, capital credits are returned to our members in a general retirement each December. Active members receive a credit on their bill, while past (inactive) members receive a check. DSO also pays special retirements to past members and to representatives of deceased members. From its creation in 1937 through 2025, DSO has retired over \$8,760,000 in capital credits.



Energy Efficient Irrigation Strategies

BY MARIA KANEVSKY

Agriculture is the backbone of our state, and keeping farmland well-irrigated is crucial for our agricultural producers. Farm irrigation methods and technologies can make a huge difference when it comes to maximizing productivity while minimizing costs.

Energy-efficient irrigation methods help farmers curtail unnecessary water use while growing the same produce, reducing their operating costs and increasing overall productivity. Above all, when choosing among irrigation methods and technologies, the most important considerations are overall cost, return on investment, convenience, and risk minimization.

One of the easiest ways to maximize energy efficiency, as many farmers have already done, is to replace old, inefficient diesel irrigation motors with electric motors. Typically, electric motors are about 90% efficient, while diesel motors are much less efficient, at 30%-40%. This means cost savings in the long run for farmers. Electric motors also have lower maintenance needs and can make use of a variable frequency drive (VFD) irrigation system, which helps further reduce costs.

VFD systems allow farmers to pump water at different rates, which maximizes irrigation throughout the day. A VFD system can control the speed of an electric motor by adjusting the frequency of the electrical power supplied to the motor. Since electric irrigation motors offer many benefits, the majority of U.S. farmers have switched from diesel motors to electric ones, although pairing the motor with a VFD system is still a relatively new agricultural trend.

Irrigation efficiency is not a one-time deal. After several years, the efficiency of irrigation pumps tends to decline. After five years, irrigation pumps are typically evaluated for performance efficiency. The evaluation can help inform decisions on the most cost-effective solution, whether making



LANCE CHEUNG, USDA

Replacing leaky sprinklers can help save a significant amount of water. Maintaining the overall efficiency of irrigation systems over time helps reduce water use and save energy.

improvements to the existing pump or replacing it entirely. Irrigation pump tests usually assess the pump's discharge pressure, lift, water flow and power input. Regular testing of irrigation pumps can help ensure they are working as efficiently as possible. Upgrading irrigation hardware can also improve irrigation system performance. Replacing leaky sprinklers, for example, can help save a significant amount of water. Maintaining the overall efficiency of irrigation systems over time helps to reduce water use and save energy.

There are many new agricultural technologies that are part of the "precision agriculture" industry, including autonomous tractors, crop-monitoring drones, and robotic milking or weeding machines. Beyond existing irrigation technologies, Wi-Fi-connected crops is one type of precision agriculture irrigation technology. After placing Wi-Fi-connected sensors throughout a crop field, farmers can monitor conditions by using their smartphones or computers. Data on light, humidity, temperature and moisture are captured by the sensors. That data is automatically sent to a server for analysis, and then to a farmer's smartphone app. Using Wi-Fi-connected crops also allows farmers to remotely set automatic timers for their watering systems. With Wi-Fi-connected crops,

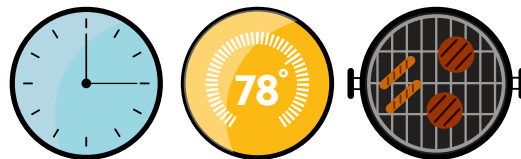
there are several factors to consider, such as cost, range, bandwidth and power. One constraint of using Wi-Fi-connected crops is that the sensor range can be limited, which makes the technology only feasible for smaller farms. There are other network connectivity platforms that could be applied to irrigation management, such as cellular connection, satellites, LoRa and Sigfox, but Wi-Fi is by far the most commonly used.

As technology continues to improve, there will be new opportunities to support the agricultural sector. Replacing technology that uses on-site fossil fuels, such as propane and gasoline, with electricity-powered technology will improve energy efficiency and reduce local pollution.

Kansas' electric cooperatives are proud to support their agricultural members and will continue to help them determine opportunities to improve and meet their energy efficiency goals.

MARIA KANEVSKY writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.

Shift Timing, Shift Savings



As we settle into the heat of July, our homes naturally use more electricity. Air conditioners run longer, refrigerators work harder, and daily routines — from cooking dinner to doing laundry — often overlap during the warmest parts of the day. That's also when the demand for electricity across our service territory is at its highest.

At DSO, our top priority is delivering safe, reliable and affordable power whenever you need it. But during peak energy hours, from 3-6 p.m., there's added pressure on the grid as homes and businesses require larger amounts of electricity, all at the same time. On the hottest days, that strain can be significant.

The good news is that small changes at home can make a meaningful difference.

Think of our electric grid like a highway system. During rush hour, traffic is heavy, congestion builds and everything slows down. But when drivers adjust their schedules, even slightly, it helps ease the bottleneck. The same principle applies to energy use.

By shifting some of your high-energy activities to off-peak hours — like doing laundry later in the evening, running the dishwasher before you go to bed, or cooking meals earlier in the day — you're helping spread out

demand. That reduces pressure on the grid during those critical peak hours.

For members who want to take their savings a step further, DSO also offers a voluntary residential interruptible rate. It's another simple way to help reduce demand during the hottest days of summer while earning a credit on your electric bill. On Peak Alert days in July and August, power to the home may be temporarily interrupted from 3-6 p.m., Monday through Friday, with advance notice sent by text or email. For households that can plan ahead and shift usage during those hours, it can be a smart way to support the grid and save at the same time.

HERE ARE A FEW SIMPLE STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO LOWER ENERGY USE DURING PEAK HOURS.

Smart technology can be a valuable partner in saving energy. A programmable or smart thermostat can automatically adjust your home's temperature when demand is highest, helping you stay comfortable while using energy more efficiently. Even a small adjustment of a few degrees during peak hours can make a difference.

In the kitchen, simple swaps can help, too. Using a slow cooker, air fryer

or outdoor grill instead of the oven keeps your home more comfortable and reduces the need for additional cooling during the warmer parts of the day. And when it comes to laundry, air-drying clothes or spacing out loads can cut down on both energy use and indoor heat.

Don't overlook the power of ceiling fans, either. They can help you feel several degrees cooler, allowing you to raise your thermostat setting without sacrificing comfort.

These actions may seem small on their own, but together, they add up. When many members make mindful choices about when and how they use electricity, it helps reduce peak demand, eases strain on the grid, and supports more stable energy costs for our local communities.

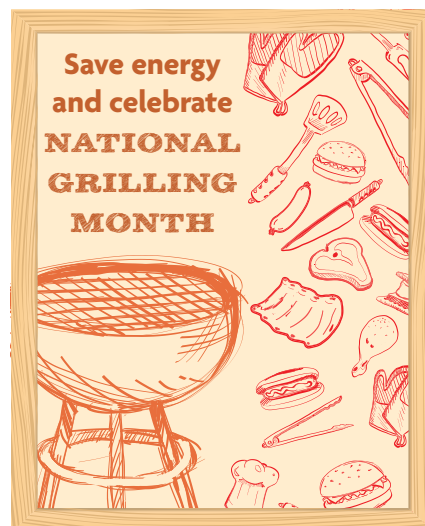
That's the cooperative difference. As a member, you're not just a customer — you're part of a community working together to power our future. Every effort you make contributes to a stronger, more resilient system.

This summer, consider taking a closer look at your daily routines. A few simple shifts can go a long way in keeping your home comfortable, your energy use efficient, and our grid running smoothly — no matter how high the temperatures climb.

TIPS TO AVOID UTILITY SCAMS



Scammers are using “smishing” — fake texts to pose as legitimate businesses, including your electric utility. They may claim your bill is overdue, your service will be disconnected, or you're owed a refund, often including links to fake payment sites or requests for personal information. Never click suspicious links or respond to unexpected texts. Instead, verify claims by logging into your account through the official website or app. We will never request sensitive information like passwords or banking details via text. SOURCE: NRECA



Fill-in-the-Blank: Fireworks Safety Tips

Holidays like the Fourth of July and other celebrations can be fun times with great memories. But everyone should practice safety near fireworks. Read the safety tips below, then fill in the blanks with the correct answer in the word bank.



1

The best way to stay safe is to never use fireworks at home. Instead, attend a public _____ and leave fireworks to the pros.

2

Watch fireworks from a _____ of 500 feet away from where they are launched.

3

Never touch or pick up pieces of fireworks or duds as they may still be _____ or could explode at any time.

4

Remember, _____ are not toys and can reach 2,000 degrees F. Use glow sticks instead.

5

Think about _____ when fireworks are nearby. It's best to leave them indoors to reduce the risk of them running away or being injured.

WORD BANK

Sparklers
Ignited
Pets
Display
Minimum

ANSWER KEY: 1. Display 2. Minimum 3. Ignited 4. Sparklers 5. Pets