



PREMA

May 2020

PLUGGED IN WITH . . .

Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association

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75th Annual Meeting

Where: PREMA Office Conference Room, Alliance

When: 2:00 PM, Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Covid-19 restrictions could dictate a postponement of the meeting.

Please call or check PREMA's Facebook page or website before attending.

On January 26, 2016, the board approved changing the meeting to a basic format. This change will help use the membership money wisely while still providing an adequate annual meeting. The following is additional information on the meeting.

- The annual meeting will be in conjunction with the regular board meeting lasting around 20 minutes.
- It will be streamed on our Facebook page live.
- There will be light refreshments served and will be a great opportunity to visit with Directors and PREMA staff.
- All member attendees at the annual meeting will be put into a drawing for a Black & Decker 40-volt max lithium ion push 16" cordless electric lawn mower.
- The annual meeting will consist of mainly brief reports about the finances and other major happenings of the co-op. This information is also available anytime during our regular business hours.



Don't Put Safety On Autopilot

Accuracy and consistency when planting make for impressive straight rows that also help maximize potential productivity. Global Positioning System (GPS) technology is helping farmers do just that. It can provide farmers with real-time, accurate location data about a field, which can be used for crop planning, map making, navigation assistance, and tractor guidance. While it can help with driver error, it does not mean that safety can be put on autopilot. Safe Electricity provides tips to help keep farm workers safe.

GPS systems with auto-guidance allow drivers to have their hands off the steering wheel as the tractor maneuvers itself through the field. Thanks to this technology, farmers can more easily and efficiently maintain accuracy even during low light conditions, which enhances productivity.

Despite continuing technological advancements in agriculture, the Bureau of Labor Statistics continue to list farming among the top ten civilian occupations with high fatal work injury rates. In 2015, there were 252 fatal work injuries among farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural managers in the U.S.

“There are many hazards on the farm, from tractor rollovers to chemical products. It’s also important to remember that farming equipment is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of their large size, height, and extensions,” says Kyla Kruse, communications director of the Energy Education Council and its Safe Electricity program. “Being aware of the location of overhead power lines and planning a safe equipment route can help reduce accidents.”

In equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on steering, which may lead some drivers to think that they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. However, even while using a GPS with automatic steering, farm workers need to keep safety top of mind and stay focused on their surroundings.

Putting safety first requires alertness, focus, and knowledge of potential hazards and appropriate safety steps. Drivers need to stay focused on the location of the tractor and its equipment while in the field and be ready to take action themselves if necessary.

Regardless of what technology you use on the farm, keep the following electrical safety guidelines in mind:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines. A driver’s vantage point from the cab may not be sufficient.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines—at all times, in all directions.
- Look up and use care when raising any equipment such as ladders, front-end loaders, or augers.
- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance. Always remember to lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact your utility.

If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is very rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

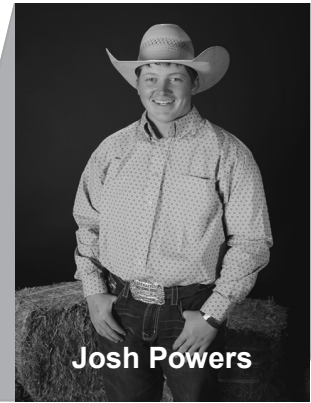
PREMA's 2020-2021 Scholarship Winners

Seven area students will receive scholarship funds from PREMA and its power suppliers. Ryan Reiber, General Manager of PREMA, announced that Kelli Horstman of Hemingford, Sarah Monahan of Hyannis, Josh Powers, Rayford Turner, and Piper deBeauclair of Arthur, Jenna Schwanebeck of Ellsworth, and Baily Hood of Lakeside will receive scholarships from PREMA, Basin Electric Power Cooperative of North Dakota and Tri-State Generation and Transmission of Denver, Colorado.



Jenna Schwanebeck

Jenna Schwanebeck, daughter of Lesa and Derek Schwanebeck of Ellsworth, will be a Freshman at Northeast Community College. She plans on studying nursing.



Josh Powers

Josh Powers, son of Patty and Dan Powers of Arthur, will be a Senior at University of Nebraska at Kearney. He is getting a degree in Agribusiness and Business Education.



Kelli Horstman

Kelli Horstman, daughter of Kay and Rex Horstman of Hemingford, will be a Junior at Nebraska Wesleyan University. She is getting her Bachelor's of Science Degree in Nursing. Kelli will receive \$1,000 from Basin Electric Power Cooperative. *Photograph by Clicks by Kim

PREMA awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Sarah Monahan and \$500 each to Jenna Schwanebeck and Rayford Turner.



Rayford Turner

Rayford Turner, son of Deanna and Calvin Turner of Arthur, will be a Freshman at Casper Community College. He plans on getting his necessary studies to become a Paramedic.



Baily Hood

Baily Hood was the winner of the \$500 Chadron State College Foundation Scholarship. Baily will be a Sophomore at Chadron State College, where he is studying Rangeland Management. He is the son of Colleen and Rob Hood from Lakeside.

The Tri-State Scholarships, \$500 each, were awarded to Piper deBeauclair and Josh Powers.



Sarah Monahan

Sarah Monahan, daughter of Bryan and LaRene Monahan of Hyannis, will be a Junior at University of Nebraska Medical Center. Sarah is getting her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. Audrey Powles Photography & Design



Piper deBeauclair

Piper deBeauclair, daughter of Tara and Shawn Hanna of Arthur, will be a Freshman at Chadron State College. While there she plans on studying Pre-Health Professions with a focus in Nursing.

The PREMA, Tri-State and Basin Scholarship winners were chosen at random from twenty applicants who met all of the qualifications. All entrants are dependents of PREMA members or PREMA employees. The scholarships are offered annually to students in PREMA's service territory.

Notes From Load Management

The 2020 Load Management irrigation control season begins May 1 and ends September 30. Control hours are 11:35 AM to 10:00 PM each day. There is no load control on Sundays or Holidays. With the possibilities of the Covid-19 situation extending into the irrigation season, Load Management will be operated the same as in the past years with a few changes.

- The PREMA office will be staffed with a limited number of employees.
- Load Management processes and equipment can be monitored and operated remotely anywhere internet is available. Therefore, Load Management employees will be available to address issues that arise even under Covid-19 restrictions and Work-From-Home arrangements.
- If Nebraska or our local area is required to have more restrictive Covid-19 measures, the Load Management Program should be able to operate normally. PREMA employees are considered Essential Employees and will be able to move about the service area to address any problems as needed.

If you have any questions regarding Load Management, please call the office at 308-762-1311, after hours calls will be forwarded to PREMA's call center.

Please stay safe!



Serving Arthur, Box Butte, Cherry, Dawes, Garden, Grant, Hooker, McPherson, Morrill, Sheridan and Sioux Counties

PREMA

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