

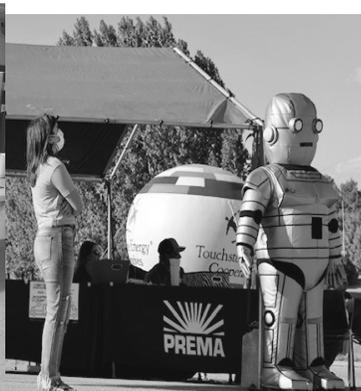
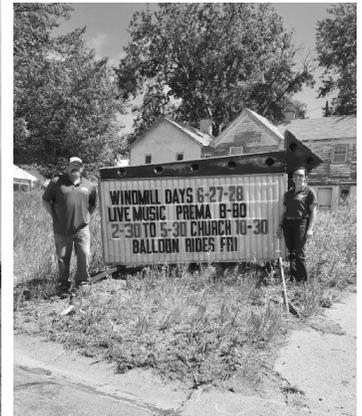


PREMA

September 2020

PLUGGED IN WITH . . .

Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association



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Above are combined pictures from our three 75th Anniversary events that were held throughout the summer. Thanks to everyone that helped make them a success.

Poverty In Our Area: Farmers to Families Food Boxes

By Patricia Jones, Task Force on Poverty

PREMA Supports Farmers to Families

If you are in the neighborhood of the Catholic Church on Tuesday mornings, you know something special is happening. Cars are lined up around the block on Big Horn, 10th Street, and Cheyenne, to drive down 9th Street where they receive Farmers to Families Food Boxes.

When the coronavirus pandemic hit America, food service businesses like restaurants and hotels no longer needed the fresh food products they prepared and served to their customers. Farmers and distributors found themselves with plenty of food but no market. But families, many of whom lost their jobs, were facing higher prices and shortages in grocery stores. This spring the USDA set up a program to help solve this problem.

The USDA Farmers to Families Food Box purchases fresh produce, dairy, and meat products from farmers. Distributors package these products into family-sized boxes and then transport them to food banks or non-profits who serve Americans in need. The project has been funded through the end of August.

Northwest Community Action Partnership has facilitated the program by initially making all the necessary contacts to get our area involved and by placing the weekly orders. CASH-WA is the food service distributor. They receive the food, package it into boxes of meat, dairy, and produce, and use their refrigerated truck to bring it to our community. United Way is responsible for organizing volunteers to hand out the boxes to families.

The CASH-WA food truck arrives at 8:30 Tuesday mornings and is unloaded from 8:30-9:00 on 9th Street. Originally distribution was to begin at 9:15, but due to the long lines food boxes are handed out beginning at 8:45 until everything is gone, around 9:30.

So what does a family receive? Three boxes of food and a half gallon of milk. Enough to feed a family of four for one week. The dairy box contains cottage cheese, sour cream, cheese, and yogurt. The meat box varies; last week it had chicken patties and turkey hot dogs. The produce is fresh, high quality items like tomatoes, potatoes, carrots, apples, lettuce, onions, cantaloupe. Photos on the United Way Facebook page show the distribution and the contents of the boxes.

The volunteers work quickly each Tuesday morning to ensure all food boxes are distributed. The USDA Farmers to Families Food Box program has given the opportunity for community members and businesses alike to volunteer and give back to the community through their time. Karen Benzel, United Way Director noted, “We have volunteers from many different facets of the community, including area churches, St. Agnes students, local banks, United Way Pacesetter Businesses (PREMA and Park Hannifin) and members of United Way Partner Agencies (DOVES, CAPstone and ARC). Many previous volunteers stop by each week to see if we need a hand. The Farmers to Food Box distribution is truly a community effort and is a prominent example of how our community comes together to serve others.”



PREMA employee Allison Gullion

HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

Source: Safe Electricity

Serving Our Area



PREMA did a community service project for the Hemingford High School in late July. A 60ft pole was installed to which an antenna was attached to it for the communication to the school buses CB radios.



Notes From Load Management

September brings an end to the irrigation season and Load Control. All participants in Load Management can be controlled every day for the month of September. PREMA does not anticipate control days to extend past September 15th. With the dry conditions, control days and hours have been more towards the normal for 2020. Irrigators with PREMA that are interested in participating in Load Management can call the office at 308-762-1311.



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

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