

Our office will be closed
Thursday, November 28
and Friday, November 29
 for Thanksgiving.



Notes From Load Management

The Load Management program for PREMA has come to an end for 2019. We were in active control 19 days. Total savings for the year was \$429,875. Days in active control and total savings were below the average from past irrigation seasons due to the abundant moisture PREMA's irrigation customers received. If you are a PREMA irrigator and are interested in Load Management. Please contact the office at 308-762-1311.



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

PREMA

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 Paul Grosz—Operations Manager
 Dale Knapp—Staking Engineer

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November 2019

PREMA

PREMA and Basin Electric Donate to Village of Hyannis

PREMA recently donated \$2,500 to the Village of Hyannis to help with replacing the roof on the Winter's Building in Hyannis. This donation is being matched with Basin Electric to give the project a total of \$5,000. The Village of Hyannis has been trying to fix leaks over the years but has decided that the roof needs to be replaced. Through community fundraisers this past summer and the donation from PREMA and Basin Electric, the project is almost completely funded.



Beau Sanchez, Chris Macy (Village of Hyannis Trustees) and Ryan Reiber (PREMA General Manager)

PLUGGED IN WITH

Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association

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FALL INTO ENERGY SAVINGS

Contact us for more energy-saving tips!

- Check to see if your home insulation levels are up to par.
- Seal air leaks around doors, windows and electrical outlets.
- When heating your home, set the thermostat to 68 degrees to save energy.

2019 Nebraska Clean Diesel Rebates for Diesel Irrigation Engine Replacements

(PREMA received the following information from the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy.)

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy's 2019 Clean Diesel Rebate Program is now accepting applications for replacement of eligible diesel irrigation engines with all-electric equipment. **Applications must be submitted to the Department by January 17, 2020 to be considered.** This program is funded by the U.S. EPA Clean Diesel Program.

Diesel irrigation engines may be replaced with an electric motor to power a surface pump or by connecting an existing submersible pump directly to the electric grid. The replaced diesel engine must be scrapped. Replacement projects must be completed by August 30, 2020.

NDEE will reimburse 60% of the cost of the electrical equipment, installation, and required electric line extension up to a maximum of \$20,000. Each applicant may apply to replace one diesel engine. The Department anticipates funding seventeen irrigation engine rebates. The rebate may be combined with a financial incentive from the electric utility to partially defray the cost of service line extension. A rebate under this program cannot be combined with funds from any other federal grant program for replacement of the same engine. No reimbursement will be made for any expenses incurred before notification of the rebate award and completion of a signed agreement with the Department.

Eligibility

- To be eligible, the existing diesel irrigation engine must have engine horsepower and model year within the ranges specified below:

Current Diesel Engine Horsepower	Current Engine Model Year and Emissions Tier
0-50 HP	2006 and Newer, Unregulated—Tier 2
51-300 HP	1996 and Newer, Tier 0—Tier3
301+ HP	1986 and Newer, Tier 0—Tier 3

- The diesel engine must be in operating condition and have historical operations of at least 500 hours annually. A pre-replacement inspection may be made to verify the engine condition.
- The diesel engine must have a legible serial number stamped into the block or listed on an engine data tag affixed to the engine.

Application

The application and instructions for this rebate program are available from the following web page:

<http://deq.ne.gov/publica.nsf/pages/17-016>.

Applications must be accompanied by one set of quotes for the replacement motor and/or electrical equipment, installation, and service line extension by the electric service supplier.

Applications must be submitted to NDEE by January 17, 2020 to be considered.

More information about the 2018 Clean Diesel Rebate Program can be found at the program website:

<http://deq.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/NCDGP>.

Questions can be directed to randy.smith@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4272

Cultivating Safety in Agricultural Practices

One of the most dangerous jobs in the United States is farming. Among the hazards faced by farmers, farm workers, and family members is contact with electrical equipment. However, with proper planning and safety procedures, the risk of having an accident involving electricity can be greatly reduced:

- Keep a 10-foot minimum distance around power lines — above, below, and to the side.
- Use a spotter when moving machinery around the farm. It can be difficult to judge how close a piece of machinery is from the driver's seat.
- Use caution when handling long items such as irrigation pipe, ladders, and rods. Coming too close to a power line can cause electricity to arc, or "jump," to conducting material or objects.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Many tractors are now equipped with radios and communications systems that have very tall antennas extending from the cab that could make contact with power lines.
- Avoid raising the arms of planters, cultivators, or truck beds near power lines.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
- Remember, even non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes, and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust, and dirt contamination.



Overhead electric wires are not the only source of electrical contact that can result in a serious incident. Pole guy wires, used to stabilize utility poles, are grounded. However, when one of the guy wires is broken it can cause an electric current disruption. This can make those neutral wires anything but harmless. If you hit a guy wire and break it, call the utility to fix it. Do not do it yourself.

If your equipment does come into contact with power lines, stay in the cab and call for help; the electric utility needs to be notified. Even if a line has landed on the ground, there is still potential for the area to be energized. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives.

If leaving the cab is necessary, as in the case of fire, the proper action is to jump—not step—with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area. Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment before the power has been shut off.

Get more electrical safety information at SafeElectricity.org.