

2014 – Year of Extremes – By Carol McGregor

Another year is done, and 2015 has just begun, (no intentions to be a poet there). Seriously, every year does seem to go by faster and 2014 has been a year of extremes.

First, record setting cold temperatures in January and February last winter caused for some higher than usual heating bills. Then the rain came in the spring; lots of it. Cedar and Knox counties registered record high rainfall this past summer, around 25-30 inches for some areas. This led to record setting yields in the fall, a welcome bumper crop. One other weather related event was the tornado that hit our Coleridge and Laurel area on June 17th,

2014. Roughly 250 poles were destroyed, many miles of line were also down and mangled. As always, in our community, people came together to help one another. Our crews worked hard to restore power quickly and safely. When there is a storm like that, we find out how efficient our crews can be. Congratulations and thanks to our employees and communities for extreme teamwork.

Projects that were completed in 2014, was a new substation near Lewis & Clark Lake, AMI (automated meter infrastructure) fully implemented and deployment of our on-line service on our web site (cedarknoxppd.com) so you have

access to your accounts at anytime, to mention only a few.

In the coming year of 2015 there are plans to build another sub-station east of Hartington, 5 miles of transmission line and multiple irrigation services among other farm and residential services.

We are sure there are many other things that will happen this year that we have not planned for, but we feel confident that we will still be prepared. Hope you have a Happy and Blessed New Year.

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NREA –

Working for Nebraska is a media campaign to get the word out to our customers how Public Power works for you in Nebraska. You can visit their website workingfornebraska.org or go to cedarknoxppd.com and click on the link to Working for Nebraska. You will find information about Affordability, Local Control, Reliability and Eco Friendly characteristics of your Public Power Districts. Rural Electric Systems are working for you, please check it out.



NRECA Regional Convention

The NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association) held the meeting in Omaha, NE October 14, 15 and 16. Almost every state was represented and Carol McGregor, Office Manager and Randy Papenhausen CKPPD Board Secretary were in attendance as well. Randy is also NREA (Nebraska Rural Electric Association) President of the Board. Jo Ann Emerson, who is the CEO of NRECA spoke and many other sessions were presented with informative material shared.



Wishing a Healthy and Happy New Year to all of our members!





Recipe Corner

Asian Sesame Chicken

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 cooked chicken breasts | 2 T honey |
| 2 carrots, biased-sliced | 1 C chicken stock |
| 2 celery stocks, biased-sliced | ¼ cup vinegar |
| 1 medium onion | 1 T cornstarch |
| 8 oz. sliced mushrooms | 1 ½ T Asian seasoning |
| 2 T soy sauce | 1 ½ t garlic chili sauce |
| ¼ cup sugar | 1 ½ t extra virgin olive oil |
| (T=tablespoon) (t=teaspoon) | Green onion, sesame seeds (garnish) |

Directions: Heat 2 Tablespoons of oil in a frying pan, then stir fry carrots, celery, onion and mushroom. Whisk together sauce ingredients and add to pan, stir and cook until thickened. Add cooked chicken and serve over white rice. Garnish with sliced green onions and sesame seeds. Serves 5

Stork Report

Brad and Jackie Steffen welcomed a boy to their family on November 6, 2014. Levi weighed 8 lbs 5 oz and was 20½ inches long. He joins two sisters, Breah and Kynlee at home. Brad is a journeyman lineman and has been working for Cedar-Knox PPD for 12 years. Jackie works for Cedar County as an Extension Educator.

Congratulations to the happy family.



Stay Safe and Warm

Tank Heater Maintenance – If you use an electric stock tank heater, check it often because a malfunctioning unit can be the cause of high usage. Check the thermostat to be sure it is working properly. It can get stuck and run continuously and overheat, causing a fire. Check the temperature settings and make sure the insulation is in good condition. Check for water leaks as well, as this can cause higher than necessary usage also.

Ground Your Tractor – A tractor outfitted with an engine heater can short out. If the operator touches the tractor with a short such as this, he becomes the path to ground, causing an electrical shock. Use a drop cord with three prongs and be sure it is in good condition. A ground fault interrupter outlet would be an added layer of protection.

Standby Generators – If you are installing a permanent generator, it must have a transfer switch, which prevents energy from going back on our power lines which is known as back-feed. A back-feed on our lines is dangerous for our linemen. A qualified electrician should install your generator and transfer switch.

Electric Space Heaters – The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that more than 25,000 residential fires and more than 300 deaths are caused each year by space heaters.

Safety Tips

- Check safety features before buying a space heater, be sure it is safety certified. Many space heaters have a safety feature that automatically turns the

heater off when it is tipped to a certain angle.

- Perform a general inspection before using the first time each winter. Check the cord for burn marks or frays. Turn switches on and off to make sure it is in proper working order.
- Use heaters properly – place the heater on level surface at least three feet away from combustibles. Due to the amount of heat that can be generated, never run the heater cord under carpet or rugs, because this can damage cords and possibly lead to fires.

So whatever type of space heater you have, remember these safety tips to protect you and your family.

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