

Northwestern Electric News

VOL. 69 NUMBER 8

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

June 2018

Inside

Low interest loan	2
Generation mix	2
Recipe	3
Generator safety	3
Call 811	4



NWEC linemen work on a damaged pole structure in northern Woodward County while a nearby cedar tree continues to burn. *Photo: Chris McGraw*

Historic wildfires cause extensive damage to NWEC's system

On April 12, historic wildfires raged across parts of NWEC's territory burning thousands of acres and hundreds of utility poles.

By 7 p.m. that evening, the number of meters without power stood at a little over 1,200. Shortly after midnight, a fault on Western Farmers Electric Cooperative's transmission lines interrupted service for about an hour to the Woodward substation and the number

of outages peaked at 4,500. As the fires continued to burn over the next few days, the outage number climbed to over 1,800 meters without power.

With the help of four contract crews and eight mutual aid crews, we had 146 lineworkers battling the elements to restore power. In some areas, the crews had to wait until the fires were extinguished before they could start repairs. There were also times the crews had to

evacuate because the fires rekindled or the wind switched directions. By the end of the day on April 19, we had restored power to almost all the services that were safe to energize.

The 34 Complex Fire north of Woodward damaged 150 poles and the Rhea Fire in Dewey County burned 770 poles. The two fires together caused an estimated \$2,349,000 in damages to NWEC's system.

NORTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Operating In Beaver, Dewey, Ellis, Harper, Major, Woods and Woodward Counties in Oklahoma

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**IN CASE OF TROUBLE CALL:
24 HOUR EMERGENCY
1-877-9NOPOWER (877.966.7693)**

**OFFICE HOURS
8 AM TO 4:30 PM
MONDAY-FRIDAY**

**ADDRESS
P.O. BOX 2707
WOODWARD, OK 73802
2925 WILLIAMS AVENUE
WOODWARD, OK 73801**

NOTICE

A copy of NWECC Bylaws will be made available for any member upon request.

**Web page: www.nwecok.coop
E-mail: nwec@nwecok.coop**

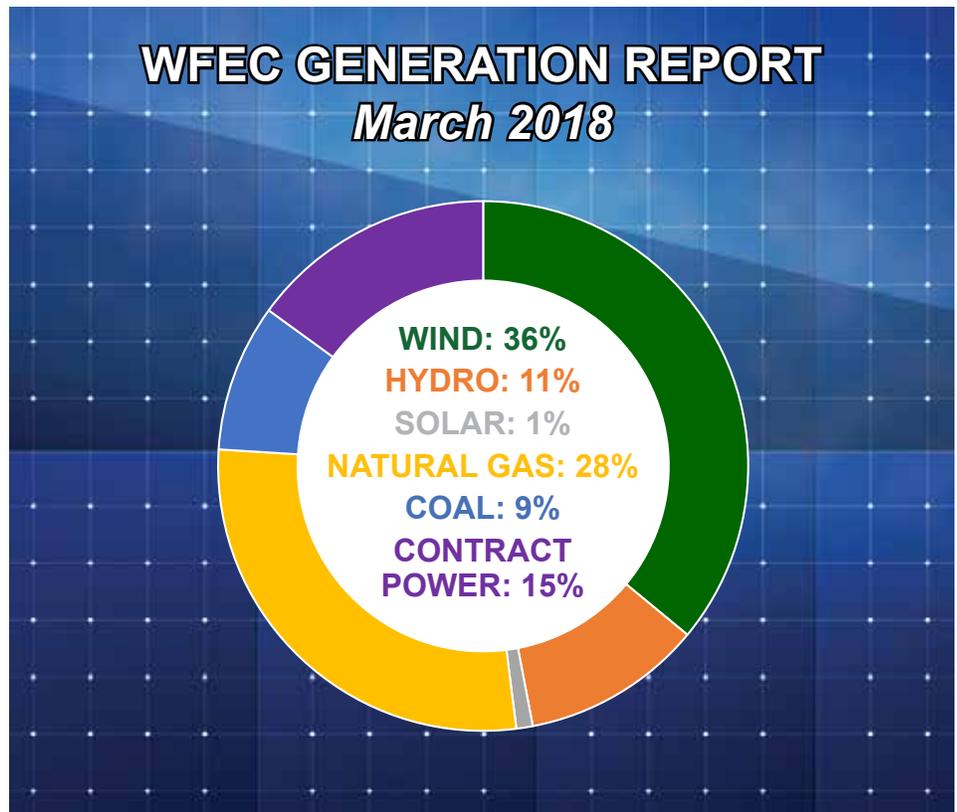


“NWECC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

NWECC offers low interest loan funds

In an effort to help the economy of northwest Oklahoma, NWECC offers low interest revolving loan funds. The low interest funds may be used by qualifying businesses to purchase buildings, equipment, and to provide working capital. (13574001)

For more information about the revolving loan and availability of funds, contact Melissa Washmon at 580.256.7425 or 800.375.7423. You can also view the loan fund guidelines and credit application on our website at www.nwecok.coop. Click on the Economic Development Loan tab under Account Services.



The percentages represent how Southwest Power Pool (SPP) schedules Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) units to serve regional load. WFEC serves as NWECC's wholesale generation and transmission power provider.

March 2018 Operating Report

	2017	2018
Revenue - Billing	2,454,359	2,698,750
Cost of Power.....	1,484,410	1,541,517
Miles of Lines	4,999	4,994
Members Connected	11,860	11,832
Density per Mile	2.37	2.37
Average Member KWH	2,056	2,231
Average Bill	207	228
KWH Purchased.....	26,965,498	28,329,000
KWH Sold.....	24,385,894	26,395,000
Income per Mile.....	493	543
Expense per Mile	527	532

Powering safely with generators during an outage

You can use a portable generator to supply electricity to your appliances if an emergency exists during a power outage. But generators can cause more harm than good if not used properly. Here are a few safety tips to generate safely during an outage.



- Never connect a portable generator to the main electrical supply coming into your house. The power provided by the generator can backfeed along power lines and electrocute linemen working on those lines. To avoid backfeeding, you must have a double-throw transfer switch between the generator and the Cooperative's power lines.
- Portable generators create carbon monoxide—the odorless, colorless gas that can quickly be deadly if the generator isn't exhausted outside. Attached garages with an open door don't count—the carbon monoxide can still seep indoors and poison inhabitants. Keep generators at a safe distance from your home's windows, doors, and vents. How far is safe enough? Even 15 feet can be too close.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords. But don't overload it.
- Start the generator first before connecting appliances. And shut off the generator before refueling or a fire could start. Keep a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby, just in case.

Hidden account number contest

Congratulations to Brenda Vilalpando-Perez for recognizing her account number in last month's newsletter. The other number belonged to Paula Mackey.

For those of you who aren't familiar with the contest, this is how it works. We have hidden two account numbers somewhere in the articles in this newsletter. The numbers will always be enclosed in parentheses and will look similar to this example (XXXXXX).

If you recognize your account number, all you have to do is give us a call on or before the 8th of the current month and we'll give you a credit on your bill for the amount stated.

This month's numbers are worth \$25 each. Happy hunting!

Country cooking

Lemon Sheet Cake

- 1 box of lemon cake mix (plus ingredients on box)**
- 1 cup buttermilk**
- 3 oz. package white chocolate pudding**



Frosting:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1/4 cup butter, softened | 1 teaspoon vanilla |
| 4 oz. cream cheese (softened) | 1 tablespoon lemon juice |
| 2 cups powdered sugar | a few teaspoons lemon zest |
| 2 tablespoons lemon jello mix | 1-2 tablespoons milk |

Preheat oven to 350°F. Add lemon cake mix and pudding mix to a medium bowl. Add buttermilk plus the ingredients on the back of the cake mix box and beat until well combined. Pour into a greased 9x13 pan. Bake for 25-30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Let cool.

While cake is cooling make frosting by creaming together butter and cream cheese. Add powdered sugar, vanilla, jello mix, lemon juice, lemon zest and milk. Beat until smooth. Frost cake and ENJOY!

Know what's below: Dial 811 before you dig

Early summer is an optimal time of year to dream up and achieve your landscaping masterpiece. If any of your projects require digging—such as planting trees or shrubs, or setting posts—remember to dial 811 first. Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water and electric lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a landscape project into a disaster.

Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out where utility lines run on your property. Your call will be routed to a local “one call” center. Tell the operator where you’re planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes and cables. These areas will be marked with flags or paint so you’ll know what’s below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of “Call Before You Dig” services, the majority doesn’t take advantage of the service. A national survey showed that only 50 percent of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common Ground Alliance (CGA), a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage prevention industry professionals. CGA data also shows that an underground utility line is damaged



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

every six minutes in the U.S. because someone decided to dig without first dialing 811.

Even simple tasks like installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs. (1374002)

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There’s no need: the 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about local services, visit www.call811.com.

Kintz, Dunham earn journeyman status



Charley Kintz (left) and Tra Dunham (right) recently earned their journeyman lineman certification by completing a four-year program consisting of classroom training, testing and on-the-job training. Brett Orme, safety and loss control committee chair for the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC), presented their certificates to them during OAEC's annual meeting held in Oklahoma City on April 2. *Photo: OAEC*