

F E R G U S

FEATURES

Member Newsletter ♦ Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc., Lewistown, MT ♦ www.ferguselectric.coop

NEW ROUNDUP, MT FACILITY

A VISUAL UPDATE

A chronological look at the progress made

WE are excited to see significant progress being made at the site of Fergus Electric Co-op's new building east of Roundup on Highway 12. The new facility will accommodate offices, storage for vehicles, and storage of equipment and material. KE Construction is busy working to construct the 126-foot by 100-foot metal building. Throughout this month's section, we are providing a chronological look at the progression of the construction. The plan is for construction to be completed in November. RM



▲ **EARLY MAY** Drone view from west side of property.



JUNE 6 ► Concrete building pad in one continuous pour.

◀ **MAY 12**
KE Construction breaks ground for the new facility.



Visual Update continued page 7



MANAGER'S MESSAGE

From Carson Sweeney

SAVE MONEY:

Take advantage of Fergus Electric's monthly electric heat rate credit

As nearly all goods and services continue to increase in price, we don't often hear of opportunities to reduce the amount we spend each day. One way to save money on your monthly electric bill would be to take advantage of our electric heat rate credit.

Fergus Electric Cooperative is a member of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, our wholesale power supplier based out of Bismarck, N.D. As a member, Basin provides a special rate for residential and/or commercial electric space heat installations. This electric heat rate allows Fergus Electric to provide a monthly credit back to members that heat their homes or businesses with electricity throughout the months of October-April.


For members interested in taking advantage of the electric heat rate credit, please contact our engineers at

MORE INFO

See next page for more information about the Heat Rate Credit Program

Fergus Electric to learn more. A second Fergus Electric meter will need to be installed to meter the electric usage of the heating system separate from all other electric usage. To complete the installation, a local electrician will need to be involved to help manage member needs, along with the requirements of Fergus Electric. For months outside of the heating season, the member will be charged our standard rate, and from October-April, the electric usage on the heat meter will be provided a credit. The credit for 2023 is \$0.03869/kWh, which is a 30 percent cost reduction. Members will be required to pay for all costs associated with installing a second meter.

For those members who rely on electricity as their primary source of heat, I would encourage you to consider investing in a second meter to decrease your monthly costs going forward. The heat rate credit is revenue neutral for Fergus Electric, as it is a direct pass-through savings to our membership.

Below we have provided a cost comparison of several different heating systems. As you can see, electric heat-pump systems are very competitive with other common heating system types when the heat rate credit is applied. If this information piques your interest, please contact Fergus Electric to discuss further. (Prices are based on existing values and are subject to change. Fergus Electric rates are based on January 1st, 2024 rates for installations utilizing less than 30 kilowatts. Basin heat rate credit is subject to change.) 

Rank	Fuel Type	Unit Cost	Unit Cost Per Therm	Appliance Type	Appliance Efficiency	%, COP, % AFUE	Cost per Therm
1	Electric	\$0.06131 (With Heat Rate Credit) /kWh	\$1.796	Ground Source Heat Pump	3.00	Coefficient of Performance	\$0.60
2	Natural Gas	\$0.7540 /Therm	\$0.75	Furnace	90	% Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency	\$0.83
3	Wood	\$150 /Cord	\$0.75	Fireplace/Stove	72	%	\$1.04
4	Electric	\$0.06131 (With Heat Rate Credit) /kWh	\$1.796	Air Source Heat Pump	1.55	Coefficient of Performance	\$1.16
5	Electric	\$0.06131 (With Heat Rate Credit) /kWh	\$1.796	Baseboard Electric	100	%	\$1.80
6	Propane	\$2.0990 /Gal.	\$2.29	Furnace	90	% Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency	\$2.54
7	Wood Pellets	\$1.9420 /Ton	\$2.30	Stove	80	% Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency	\$2.88
8	Electric	\$0.10 Standard Rate /kWh	\$2.929	Baseboard Electric	100	%	\$2.93

Costs are based on current rates and are subject to change. Monthly base charge and/or tank rental charges are not included in the comparison.

HEAT RATE CREDIT PROGRAM INFO

FERGUS Electric Cooperative, Inc. now provides an affordable way to heat your home or business. To help our members reduce their heating costs, Fergus Electric offers a heat rate for eligible services. The Heat Rate Program allows members to receive a credit per kilowatt hour (kWh) for the electricity used to heat homes and businesses from October through April. This credit makes heating with electricity a cost-effective way to heat your home or business.

• Can anyone sign up for the electric heat rate?

The heat rate is offered to members who have permanently installed electric-resistance heat and/or an electric heat-pump space heating system. Net-metered accounts do not qualify for the electric Heat Rate Program.

• Is there special equipment that needs to be installed?

Yes, you will be required to install equipment to meter your electric heat load separately from other usage in your home or business.

• Can I install the equipment myself?

No, installations require the use of a licensed electrician.

• What will it cost to have the equipment installed?

Cost will vary based on the unique requirements of your installation.

• Are there additional costs to participate in the program?

No. There is no additional charge for the second meter.

• How am I charged differently for electricity I use for heating?

For the months of October through April, you will receive a heat credit per kWh purchased for electric resistant heat.

• How do I get started?

Call our engineering team at 406-538-3465 to learn more.

Labor Day CLOSURE

Fergus Electric Cooperative's offices in Lewistown and Roundup will be closed Monday, September 4

NEW ROUNDUP, MT FACILITY A VISUAL UPDATE

June 22

Installing perlin to support metal roof.



JUNE 26

Crew tying rebar together on east concrete apron.



Visual Update continued next page

NEW ROUNDUP, MT FACILITY A VISUAL UPDATE

▼ JULY 5 Installing roof tarp to secure ceiling insulation.



▼ JULY 5 Roof is being prepped for insulation and steel roof panels.



▼ JULY 13 Work is being done on the insulation and roofing.



IDENTIFY ACCOUNT NUMBER*

WIN A \$32.50 CREDIT

If one of the following account numbers is yours, call Fergus Electric (406-538-3465) and identify yourself and your account number and you will receive a \$32.50 credit on next month's statement.

Account 320838, Account 382441
Account 372685, Account 231003
Account 285801, Account 391493

CONGRATULATIONS!

Jerome Cole of Musselshell and **Martha Chapel Boyce** of Lewistown were last month's winners!

*NUMBERS ARE DRAWN MONTHLY

Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. LEWISTOWN, MT

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

FOR OUTAGES

First: Check the fuses or breakers in the building in which the electricity is off.

Second: Check the breaker below the meter.

Third: If electricity is still out, call a neighbor to see if they have electricity.

Fourth: Call 406-538-3465 day or night or:

Dale Rikala	406-366-3374
Bret Ophus	406-366-7523
Bret Nellerhoe (Roundup).....	406-939-0636
Carson Sweeney	406-366-0971
Melanie Foran.....	406-462-5650
Scott Olson.....	406-366-5822
Dan Balster.....	406-366-0975

FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

84423 US Hwy. 87, Lewistown, MT
59457-2058

Tel: 406-538-3465

Office Hours: 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. M-Th.

Website: www.ferguselectric.coop

E-mail: ferguselectric@ferguselectric.coop

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ferguselectric

Carson Sweeney.....General Manager

Dale Rikala.....Line Superintendent

Sally HoracekOffice Manager

Janine Rife Didier.....Editor

Fergus Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1:	Paul Descheemaeker, President, Lewistown, 428-2417
District 2:	Brett Maxwell, Lewistown, 538-9002
District 3:	Brad Arntzen, Hilger, 462-5555
District 4:	Cathy Kombol, Roundup, 428-2202
District 5:	Terry Frost, Vice President, Roundup, 323-3415
District 6:	Jason Swanz, Sec./Treas., Judith Gap, 473-2462
District 7:	Bob Evans, Jr., Geyser, 735-4476

**Fergus Features is an
award-winning newsletter.**