

F E R G U S

FEATURES

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



MANAGER'S MESSAGE

From Carson Sweeney

System reliability, the legislative session are focal points for 2025

HAPPY New Year to all our members! I hope the holiday season was enjoyed by all.

Our team at Fergus Electric Cooperative completed several large projects in 2024 that will improve long-term system reliability for our members throughout the service territory. As we kick off 2025, we continue to work on circuit coordination and pole replacements as a system-wide priority.

Our operations team has plans to replace approximately 400 wood distribution poles this year and replace 11 miles of underground cable.

We are rebuilding a substation north of Lewistown and will be expanding our transmission system southeast of Harlowton for a new member.

If you have a project in mind for your operations, please contact our engineers to begin working through the details and reserve a spot on our schedule.

For the last two years we have been a wholesale distributor for Generac Generators. This backup option has been quite popular with our members. Our unit sales have been so strong that we now receive a larger discount on all Generac products.

If you have been considering an electric generator as an emergency backup, please contact our engineering team to learn more. Our engineers are regularly working with elec-

tricians throughout our area to install these devices.


We are diligently working to improve our system and electric reliability. However, we all still live in rural Montana, and understand that Mother Nature typically has the upper hand. Generators are excellent assets to help maintain cattle water and keep equipment warm during brutal winter storms.

2025 brings us a new presidential administration as well as a busy Montana legislative session. Montana's electric cooperatives will be active and supportive of maintaining a reliable and affordable electric grid.

We will be working with the Montana Legislature on several items of importance throughout the session. Please keep an eye on our grassroots movement for valuable session information. Within the month, I expect to travel to Washington, D.C., to continue building relationships with our delegation on the East Coast.

I expect our electric cooperatives to receive a warm welcome from both new and familiar faces.

Now that election season is officially over and most of the campaign signs have been removed, remember to help a neighbor, volunteer for an event, be overly kind or say a prayer for those in need.

We could all use a warm and friendly start to the new year. 

WISHING OUR MEMBERS A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

MAY 2025 BRING YOU JOY, HAPPINESS, AND GOOD HEALTH

2025
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Standard work for

The work that is done behind the scenes to keep the power flowing



ABOVE: Fergus Electric Cooperative Lineman Dakota Wahl and Lineman Bill Stanton in buckets at the Roy Substation.

LEFT: FEC Lineman Darek Dygert is tying in a neutral on a freshly-set three-phase pole.

RIGHT: Apprentice Lineman Travis Sura is framing a new three-phase pole.

**| FERGUS ELECTRIC
PHOTOS**



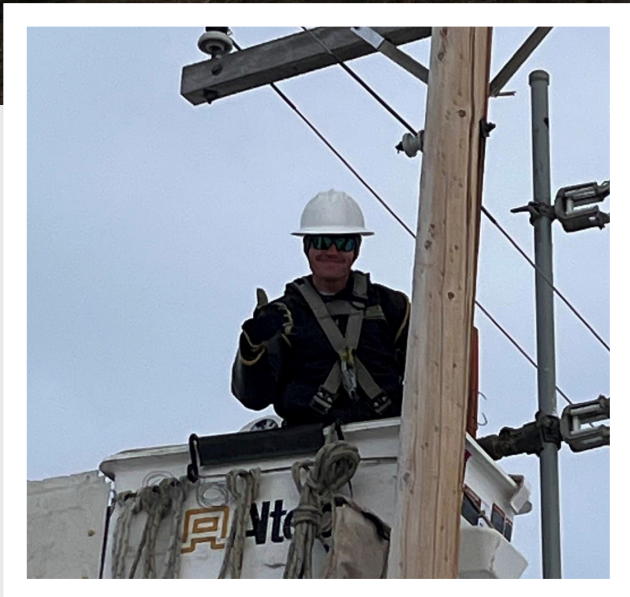
FEC's line crews



LEFT: Linemen tying conductors on a pole that was changed out.

BELOW: Transformer Repairman Mark Schwomeyer, left, and Lineman Darek Dyger install a conductor on new powerline.

| FERGUS ELECTRIC PHOTOS



ABOVE: (L-R) Lineman Jake Grensten, Apprentice Lineman Jason Deffinbaugh and Transformer Repairman Mark Schwomeyer perform maintenance at the Winnett Substation.

LEFT: Lineman Darek Dygert changing out a three-phase pole.

| FERGUS ELECTRIC PHOTOS



RE M I N D E R :
SCHOLARSHIPS

GET YOUR APPLICATIONS IN BY JAN. 24

To qualified students whose parents are cooperative members: If you are a high school senior planning to attend college or are a student continuing an undergraduate education, you could win a \$1,000 scholarship from Fergus Electric Cooperative and have a chance to win a \$500 scholarship from the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA).

Scholarship applicants must:

- 1) Be a member of Fergus Electric Cooperative.
- 2) Be a graduating high school senior with plans to attend a university or vocational/technical school, or be an undergraduate college student.
- 3) Submit a completed application to Fergus Electric that includes school transcripts, ACT/SAT scores, a personal statement and one letter of recommendation.
- 4) Submit entries to Fergus Electric postmarked no later than **January 24, 2025** to MECA/Fergus Scholarship Committee, Fergus Electric Cooperative

84423 U.S. Highway 87, Lewistown, MT 59457.

The criteria for scholarship judging includes 20 percent academic strength (as demonstrated by coursework, GPA, and national testing scores); 20 percent activities in school and community, awards and honors; 20 percent employment, volunteerism and community service, and 40 percent personal statement.

Fergus Electric will select one application to be forwarded to MECA in Great Falls for further judging. A MECA committee will choose the scholarship recipients from the pool of finalists. Fergus Electric will also award one scholarship from the applications.

For an application or for more information, contact Debby at 406-538-3465. In addition, the application and guidelines are posted on Fergus Electric's website www.ferguselectric.coop and on the MECA website at www.mtco-ops.com. RM

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 188413, Account 95601
 Account 318446, Account 348785
 Account 357895, Account 398562**

James Berghorn of White Sulphur Springs was last month's winner.

*NUMBERS ARE DRAWN MONTHLY



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

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- Dale Rikala..... Line Superintendent**
- Sally Horacek Office Manager**
- Janine Rife Didier..... Editor**

Fergus Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Fergus Features is an award-winning newsletter.



**Know what's below.
 Call before you dig.**