



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

SERVING MEMBERS

WE Americans celebrate Thanksgiving to observe faith, family, friends, good health, blessings and prosperity. Many of us are thankful for our jobs, communities and where we live. As you prepare your Thanksgiving dinner, you may even be thankful for the electricity you receive from Fergus Electric Cooperative. Not only does electricity play an important role in your kitchen, but it is also a vital part of modern living, providing electricity for your heating, cooling, communications and entertainment needs.

We appreciate our members and want to do our part to make your life easier. Everyone at your co-op is committed to providing excellent service to our members.

Safety demonstrations

We want to keep everyone safe — employees, members and motorists. We offer an outdoor safety demonstration that is used to teach children of all ages the importance of being safe around electricity. Schools, groups and clubs can contact the office to schedule a future safety demonstration.

Lighting

Your electric cooperative provides power to the lights in your shop, barn and corrals, so you can see what's going on when you're working

outdoors after sunset. If you need additional outdoor lighting or would like to have lights installed, please contact the engineering department at Fergus Electric. Some projects may require an independent electrician to complete the work. Our engineers would be happy to visit with you about your plans and provide help.

Paying your bill

When it comes to paying your monthly power bill, more and more members are choosing to set up automatic payments, so they can be assured their account will always be paid in a timely manner. We are pleased to be able to offer our members six ways to pay your bill.

Fergus Electric offers:

- Smarthub Online is available on our website. If you are new to Smarthub, sign up to access our Self Service site.
- Automatic Bank Draft. To sign up, complete the form on our website or contact the office for one to be mailed to you.
- You may pay using your credit and debit card by calling Fergus Electric's Call Capture Automated Phone System at 1-844-425-4302.
- You can mail your payment to the office. We ask that you include the bottom portion of your bill, and please allow time for the payment to be

received by the due date.

- We welcome you to stop in the office and pay in person. We are always happy to greet our members!
- Bank drop. To make it convenient for you, Fergus Electric has set up accounts at three Lewistown banks where you can drop off your payment: Stockman Bank, First National Bank and Bank of the Rockies.


Co-op growth

In the last 12 months, Fergus Electric has welcomed 128 new members. We are grateful for the growth on our system. If your plans include construction of a new powerline to your property this year or next spring, please contact our engineering department to discuss your plans.

Line locators

We have a handheld line locator and an underground fault locator available for members to rent by the day. To inquire about the locators, please contact Bret.

Thank you

Throughout the year, many of you take the time to thank us for the services we provide. We thank you for your kindness and would like to take this opportunity to let you know how thankful we are for each one of you! Have a Happy Thanksgiving! 



MANAGER'S MESSAGE

From Carson Sweeney

Working to meet the needs of rural communities

RECENTLY, six Fergus Electric directors and I traveled to Great Falls to participate in the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) 61st Annual Meeting. All 25 of Montana's electric cooperatives participate in this annual event.

Our directors spent the first day attending a director education course: Cooperative Communications and Public Opinion presented by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Your directors regularly attend continuing education courses to stay up to date on electric cooperative issues and changes throughout the industry.

We also attended various MECA committee meetings, including Member Services, Safety, Legislative, Communications and Power Supply. Our directors are seated on many of these committees, and help to develop plans for how our state association will continue to meet the needs of rural communities. I am proud that our directors are willing to actively participate on these committees and strive to build a knowledge base on how best to serve our cooperative. Fergus Electric continues to be well represented on the local, state and national levels.

Power supply and grid reliability seem to be topics receiving national




The Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association Annual Meeting was held recently in Great Falls.

media attention recently. Early this month, directors and I will be attending the Basin Electric Power Cooperative annual meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota. I suspect that the keynote speakers and meeting conversations will revolve around resource adequacy and investment into future power generation needs to maintain grid reliability.

We are engaged and supportive of these conversations, and believe that all generation sources will be needed to meet our energy requirements going forward. I continue to emphasize that reliability and affordability are far more important to our nation's

economy and energy independence than striving to meet unrealistic carbon-free goals.

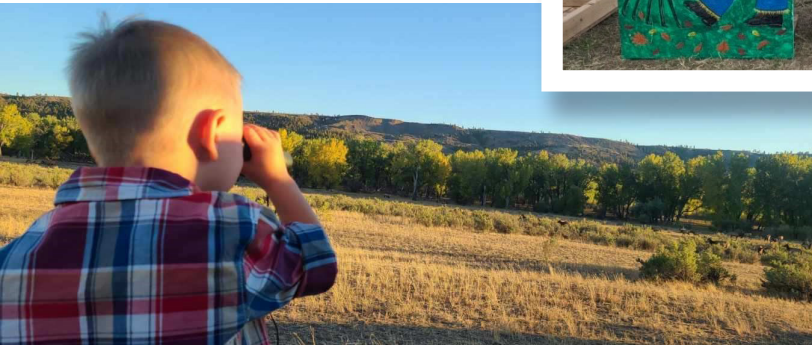
I expect this very topic to be discussed at length during the upcoming Montana legislative session. We will participate throughout the session and testify when called upon. Electric Cooperatives have an excellent history and relationship with those that serve in Montana's Legislative Chambers. We expect to work with them as they dive into the many issues to be discussed early next year.

I hope fall is treating you well and that you are enjoying the beautiful weather. Enjoy your Thanksgiving. 



ENJOYING AUTUMN

FERGUS ELECTRIC MEMBERS' KIDS HAVING FUN IN CENTRAL MONTANA THIS FALL





MECA AND FERGUS ELECTRIC

SCHOLARSHIPS

GET YOUR APPLICATIONS IN BY JANUARY 25
FOR FOUR \$500 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

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,

And 4) Submit entries to Fergus Electric postmarked no later than **January 25, 2023** to MECA/Fergus Scholarship Committee, Fergus Electric Cooperative 84423 U.S. Highway 87, Lewistown, MT 59457.

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 Sue 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.



IDENTIFY ACCOUNT NUMBER*

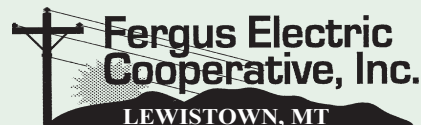
WIN A \$32.50 CREDIT

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 395474, Account 396546
Account 395276, Account 395014
Account 395664, Account 363208**

No winner to report for last month.

*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 Nelleremoe (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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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 Horacek Office 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
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District 7:	Bob Evans, Jr., Geyser, 735-4476

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