



# Clark Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## Manager's Highlights

*"A few brief notes on important cooperative subjects for all members"*

### Commitment to Community

The commitment to community charge that appears on each member's electric bill has been collected since October 1, 2000. The response of people who qualified for the program (through the county social services departments) was overwhelming, and as a result we ran out of money (actually we dispersed more than we collected to date). Funds were distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis, but there were just more requests than we had money available for. As a result, we have stopped further payments on electric bills to the low-income members who qualified. The fiscal year starts in July this year, so hopefully there will be more money available next year. We remind members to watch the newspapers for information from the County Social Services Office about when to go in and apply. The sooner you apply, the better chance you have of receiving a payment.

### Cost of electricity

Many people inquire about the future cost of electricity because of the escalating prices of natural gas, propane, and gasoline. The same people are also concerned that what happened in California will happen in our state. So far, it looks pretty good for the rest of 2001, as Dairyland Power Cooperative (our generating and transmission facility) has budgeted for only slight increases. If power shortages become more serious and the price is affected by the shortages, things could change. Dairyland Power generates almost entirely with coal, and right now we are seeing reports of higher coal prices. This could have an effect on our costs into 2002, hopefully not too high to create financial burdens. Make sure that you participate in our load management system. This will help you and the cooperative get the best possible price for electricity.

## Notice

Our offices will be closed in celebration of Independence Day Wednesday, July 4th

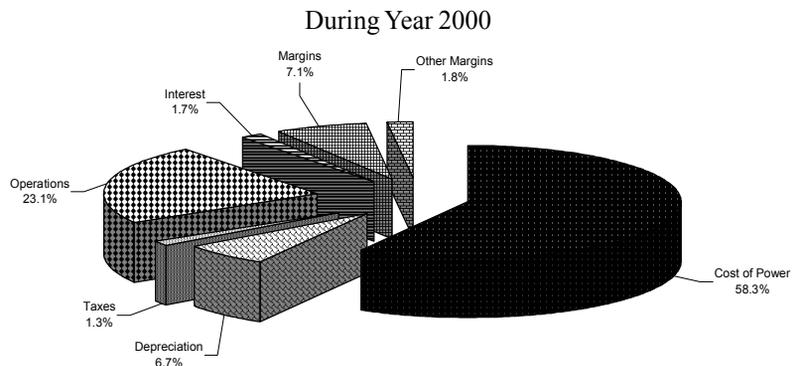
### Long-term loan

A topic from our annual meeting the past few years has been the need for another long-term loan. In my tenure as manager, we have had to borrow long term only once before, back in the late '70s, and that was for \$1.75 million. This new loan will be \$4.0 million, with half to be used to pay off current short-term loans. Clark Electric has been very fortunate to not have to have borrowed much over the years. Our equity is currently over 80 percent, which is exceptional. The problem is that our investment in plant continues to be over \$1 million annually for upgrading the electric system and equipment replacement.

The \$4 million will be from two sources, one half from Rural Utility Services (RUS), formerly the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). The other half of the loan will come from National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp. (CFC), which is a financial cooperative that we are a member of.

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How The Average Dollar Was Spent



*A graph showing how your dollar was spent, notice how much goes towards purchasing the electricity to serve you!*

# Spring storms do damage

*With a little hard work things were back to normal*

Mother Nature showed her fury on May 14 by unleashing powerful storms. One such storm hit our area and did some damage to the distribution system. The storm produced large hail and heavy rains from Owen-Withee, Abbottsford, Colby, and down to Spencer. The storm blew down several barns and even tipped over two semi-trucks on Hwy. 29.

More than 600 members of Clark Electric's system were without power due to the damage. The system had seven broken poles, with lots of power lines down. Clark Electric's crews had help from Taylor Electric Cooperative, which sent down two men and a truck to assist in restoring power. Our crews and Taylor's crews worked hard throughout the day and had everyone back in power by early evening. We want to thank Taylor Electric for their help—it was really appreciated. Remember, when there are power lines down, stay away and call us immediately and keep others away for their own safety.



Some of the Clark Electric Linemen who helped restore power quickly to our members: Dan Sturz, Warren Luedtke, Jeff Block, apprentice linemen Chad Steffen, Josh Burns, and equipment operator Jim Rust.

## Automation Coming

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### Automated meters coming

At the last few annual meetings we have also mentioned we are looking into automated meters that will send us your meter readings directly. Your board of directors has authorized the start, which will be for all of our Time-of-Day accounts. In the past, these meters have been the most difficult to read by our members, which has caused many adjustments and delayed our billings to members. Hopefully, later in 2001 the new system will be ready to install so those members using T.O.D. will no longer have to read their meters and mark it on the billing statement.

When the system is installed, we may consider a change of time for peak periods. Since we began Time-of-Day in the early 1980s, the hours have been 6:30–9:30 a.m. and 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The peak periods have been changing some over the years and we may have to add one hour in the morning and evening. Those who are on the Time-of-Day rate will be notified ahead of time to see if they want to continue.

This is going to be a telephone-type system, where the meter will be programmed to automatically call our computer during the night time and submit the reading from the meter. We will then use the reading to compute the next billing. Once this system gets installed, we will be pursuing a system for the rest of the meters, which may be an entirely different system that sends meter readings through our neutral line back to the office for computation.

**Dick Adler**  
CEO / General Manager

Until this new system is up and running, and a possible change in peak-hours is established, we will not be adding any new consumers to the T.O.D. rate.



**Dick Adler, Manager**  
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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



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For information on  
Clark Electric Cooperative's  
Dairy Farm Wiring Program &  
Loan Program with free inspections,

**Contact John Knox**  
**Director of Member services**

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# What makes us so special

## *Being part of a cooperative has its advantages*

Being a member of a cooperative might not seem special to some of our readers, but to others, being a member of a cooperative, especially an electric cooperative, is very important. Some still remember when they first received power to their farms or homes. On the other hand, there are those who always have had power at our fingertips, ready at all times for us.

Young and old, we must all appreciate what electricity has done for us, and what it will continue to do for us. All of this made possible by your electric cooperative. Electric cooperatives all follow the same

basic rules and guidelines when doing business for their members. In fact, that's how Touchstone<sup>®</sup> Energy came about.

We abide by the seven cooperative principles in our operation of the cooperative, as does every other cooperative in the nation. That's what sets us apart from the investor-owned utilities throughout the state and the county. These principles are inherent to our everyday operation, and they are what makes us so special.

## *The Seven Cooperative Principles*

**1 Voluntary and Open Membership**—Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination.

**2 Democratic Member Control**—Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

**3 Members' Economic Participation**—Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

**4 Autonomy and Independence**—Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

**5 Education, Training, and Information**—Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

**6 Cooperation Among Cooperatives**—Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.

**7 Concern for Community**—While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

## Safety Excellence

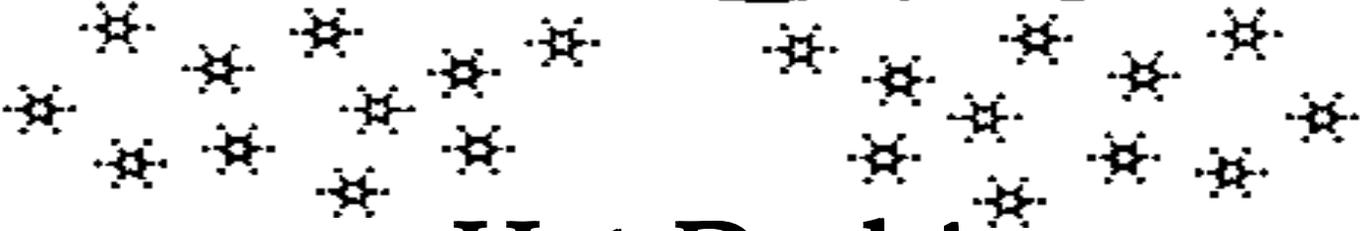
Clark Electric was recently awarded a Certificate Of Excellence for "Safety Accreditation in recognition of its dedication to employee and public safety and commitment to accident prevention and loss control." This is a very prestigious award that cooperatives can earn. Our insurance companies look favorably to those who achieve this high honor.

"Sandy Herrick, operations aide, is largely responsible for all the important recordkeeping and compiling of the information," says Bob Moseley, director of operations. "When the inspectors come to the cooperative to look over the facilities, our lines, and our workers, they have continually found the very best." A big thank you also to every employee at the cooperative who plays an important role in the co-op receiving this award. Our daily incentive to provide safe working conditions helps us to obtain this honor.

This is the fifth consecutive time that Clark Electric Cooperative has earned the Safety Accreditation Award. This award speaks highly of the cooperative employees who serve the members of Clark Electric Cooperative.



Bob Moseley, director of operations, and Sandy Herrick, operations aide, with the Safety Accreditation Award presented to the cooperative.



# Hot Deals! Cool Savings!



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